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# Daily Report

# Near East &
# South Asia

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# Daily Report
## Near East & South Asia

*FBIS-NES-91-052*

## CONTENTS

*18 March 1991*

**NOTICE TO READERS:** An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Praises Algeria, Palestinian Struggle *[APS]* .... 1
'Abd-Rabbuh: PLO Ready for Israeli Peace Talks *[Amman JORDAN TIMES 16 Mar]* .... 2
PLO Thanks Syria For Releasing Palestinians *[Algiers VOP]* .... 3
PLO Leaders Experiencing 'Sharp Differences' *[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 12 Mar]* .... 3
Bush, Mitterrand Disagree at Talks on Mideast *[Algiers VOP]* .... 3
Envoy to Spain Comments on Baker Meeting *[Madrid Radio]* .... 3
Committee Members Meet With Jordan's Badran *[Algiers VOP]* .... 4
Fatah Official Calls For Armed Struggle *[Baghdad Radio]* .... 4
PLO in London Criticizes Abu-Sharif *[AFP]* .... 4
Qaddumi on Efforts To Resolve Palestine Issue *[Amman TV]* .... 4
Detained Palestinians Reaffirm Support for PLO *[Algiers VOP]* .... 5

### OPEC Affairs

OPEC To Discuss Future Production, Pricing *[Vienna OPECNA]* .... 5
Indonesia Urging Saudis To Cut Oil Output *[Jakarta ANTARA]* .... 5
Boussena Reviews Need for $21 Reference Price *[APS]* .... 6
UAE Minister Views Agreement, Market Stability *[WAKH]* .... 6

## ARAB AFRICA

### Algeria

OPEC's Viability, Post-War Strategy Questioned *[APS]* .... 7
Hamrouche, Legislators Discuss Economy, Strike *[Algiers Radio]* .... 7
Alleged Kuwaiti Harassment of Nationals Noted *[Algiers Radio]* .... 7
Explosion at PLO Office in Algiers Reported *[Algiers Radio]* .... 8
    Two 'Arafat Bodyguards Killed *[AFP]* .... 8

### Egypt

Mubarak Rejects Intervening in Iraqi Conflict *[Cairo Radio]* .... 8
Saudi Commander Continues Visit to Cairo .... 9
    Meets With Chief of Staff *[MENA]* .... 9
    Discusses Military Cooperation *[Cairo Radio]* .... 9
    Holds News Conference *[MENA]* .... 9
    Concludes Visit, Departs 14 Mar *[MENA]* .... 10
Ghali Confers With Israeli Knesset Members *[MENA]* .... 10
Sources Note Contacts With Israel on Meetings *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* .... 10
Sources Say 'Arafat Request for Meeting Fails *[London KUNA]* .... 10
'Arafat Political Adviser Arrives in Cairo *[MENA]* .... 11
Cairo, Tehran To Open Interests Offices *[Cairo Radio]* .... 11
Interior Minister on Arrest of 'Terrorists' *[MENA]* .... 11
Group With Explosives Arrested at Red Sea Port *[AFP]* .... 11
Article Comments on President Bush's Interview *[AL-AKHBAR 11 Mar]* .... 11
*Figures for 1990 Exports to Arabs, War Losses *[AL-WAFD 26 Feb]* .... 12

### Libya

Kuwaiti Amir Telephones Al-Qadhdhafi *[JANA]* 12
Al-Qadhdhafi Attends People's Committee Meeting *[Tripoli International]* 13
Al-Qadhdhafi To Send Weapons to Lebanon *[Beirut AL-SHIRA' 11 Mar]* 13
Source Notes U.S. Training of POW's in Chad *[JANA]* 13
Al-Qadhdhafi Hails Egypt-Sudan Media Compact *[JANA]* 13
Al-Qadhdhafi's Statement on Gulf War Outlined *[Cairo AL-SHA'B 19 Feb]* 13
'Abd-al-Majid Sends Message on Damascus Meeting *[JANA]* 14

### Morocco

Pakistani Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks *[Islamabad Radio]* 14
Delegation of Soviet Businessmen Visits Meknes *[MAP]* 14
* King Hassan Pardons 2,268 Detainees *[Paris LE MONDE 3 Mar]* 15
* Amnesty Allegedly Excludes Human Rights Cases *[Paris LE MONDE 5 Mar]* 15
New Weekly 'EL KACHKOUL' Begins Publication *[MAP]* 15

### Sudan

Al-Bashir Welcomes Bush Remarks on Palestinians *[Omdurman Radio]* 15
Palestinian Envoy Criticizes Bush Proposals *[SUNA]* 16
Al-Bashir Receives Soviet Message on Mideast *[Khartoum Radio]* 16
Al-Bashir Assures Iranian Delegation on Shari'a *[SUNA]* 16
Al-Bashir Receives Message From Pope John Paul *[SUNA]* 16
Al-Bashir Says 'Conditional' Aid Unacceptable *[Khartoum SUNA]* 16
Khalifah Chairs Meeting on 'New World Order' *[Omdurman Radio]* 16
Al-Sadiq Followers Reject Contacts With Rebels *[Omdurman Radio]* 17
Three-Year Compulsory National Service Instituted *[Omdurman Radio]* 17
Celebration Hails Military Returning From Yei *[Khartoum Radio]* 17
Military Source on Kurdufan, Equatoria Fighting *[Khartoum Radio]* 18

## ARABIAN PENINSULA

### Bahrain

Government Forms Civil Defense Council *[WAKH]* 19

### Kuwait

Council of Representatives To Meet This Week *[MENA]* 19
Curfew Lifted During Month of Ramadan *[Radio Kuwait]* 19
Prime Minister Assures Palestinians of Support *[Radio Kuwait]* 19
Premier Thanks Iranian Envoy for Gulf Stance *[IRNA]* 19
Minister Reviews Food Supplies, Elections *[Radio Kuwait]* 20
Ministry Asks Citizens Abroad To Delay Return *[Radio Kuwait]* 20
Committee Prepares To Receive POW's *[London KUNA]* 20
French Defense Minister Discusses Mine Clearing *[Paris Radio]* 20
U.S. Fact-Finding Delegation Arrives *[Radio Kuwait]* 21
Ex-Assembly Member Calls for General Elections *[London KUNA]* 21
Article Views Debate on Country's Future
*[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 13 Mar]* 21

### Oman

Iran's Velayati Meets Sultan Qabus in Muscat 22
  Discuss Regional Cooperation *[IRNA]* 22
  Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives *[SPA]* 22
  Meets With Velayati *[Riyadh Radio]* 22

### Saudi Arabia

King Criticizes Saddam in Ramadan Address *[Riyadh TV]* 22
Prince Khalid Returns From Egypt, Syria *[SPA]* 23
Press Focuses on Ramadan, Iraq's Future *[SPA]* 23
Papers Assess Efforts To Oust Saddam *[SPA]* 24
Article Calls For 'Arafat's Removal From Office *['UKAZ 6 Mar]* 25
Paper on 'Peace and Freedom' for Palestinians *[SPA]* 26

### Yemen

Salih Hails Advent of Political Pluralism *[Aden Radio]* 26
Al-Iryani on Security; Bush Palestinian Comments *[Aden Radio]* 26
YSP Central Committee on Referendum, Gulf *[Aden Radio]* 27

## IRAQ

Saddam Addresses Nation, Calls For Reform *[Baghdad Radio]* 28
Saddam Announces 'Sedition' Wiped Out in South *[INA]* 33
'Izzat Ibrahim Conveys Saddam Greetings to Army *[Baghdad Radio]* 33
Saddam Receives Members of RCC, Ba'th Party *[INA]* 34
Continuing Fighting Reported in Najaf, Karabala' *[Tehran TV]* 34
Mosul Reportedly Seized by Opposition Forces *[AFP]* 34
'Popular Forces' Reportedly Down PC-7 Aircraft *[Tehran Radio]* 34
Tehran TV Updates Situation in Country 34
Rebels Said To Maintain 'Siege' at Karkuk *[IRNA]* 35
'Popular Forces' Reportedly Capture Al-Kut *[IRNA]* 35
Refugees Cited on Fighting, Government Atrocities *[Damascus Radio]* 35
Opposition Said Preparing To March on Baghdad *[Damascus Radio]* 36
Government Attack on Tuz Reported Repulsed *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 36
Opposition Radio Cited on Mosul, Dahuk Capture *[Damascus Radio]* 36
60 Percent of Iraqi Kurdistan Supports Rebels *[AFP]* 37
Kurdish Leader Al-Talabani Reviews Situation *[Beirut AL-SAFIR 13 Mar]* 37
Differences Seen at Beirut Opposition Conference *[AFP]* 38
Al-Najaf Shaykh Interviewed on Recent 'Riots' *[INA]* 39
'Army Deserter' on Acts of Rioting in Karbala' *[INA]* 39
Baghdad TV Interviews Anti-Government 'Rioter' *[INA]* 39
Student Describes 'Rioters,' 'Criminals' Acts' *[INA]* 39
Opposition Radio Cited on Appeal for Aid *[Tehran Radio]* 40
Clandestine Radio Said To Invite Foreign Press *[Damascus Radio]* 40
Commentary Warns Saddam of His Impending Fate *[VOFI]* 40
Kurdish Chieftains Pledge Loyalty to Saddam *[INA]* 41
Tribal Chiefs Renew Allegiance to Saddam *[INA]* 41
Saddam Receives Cable From Yemeni Ba'thists *[INA]* 42
Ba'th Party Official Speaks at Al-Ta'min Meeting *[Baghdad Radio]* 42
'Izzat Ibrahim Addresses Al-Ta'mim Party Meeting *[INA]* 43
Ibrahim Meets With Al-Ta'mim Officials *[INA]* 43
Ba'th Official Discusses Services in Karbala' *[INA]* 44
Ba'th Party Officer Meets Officials in Al-Basrah *[Baghdad Radio]* 44
Ba'th Party Official Visits Khanaqin *[Baghdad Radio]* 44
UN Envoy Meets U.S. Counterpart in New York *[INA]* 44
'Aziz Discusses Relief Aid With UN Officer *[INA]* 44
Amnesty Period for Deserters Extended Four Days *[Baghdad Radio]* 45
Ministry Reports 499 Gulf War POW's Come Home *[INA]* 45
Presidential Office Bans Alcohol During Ramadan *[Baghdad Radio]* 45
Minister Views 'Saboteurs' Damage in Karbala' *[INA]* 45
Regional Command Member Praises Effort in Diyala *[AL-THAWRAH 13 Mar]* 45
Official on Efforts To Provide Water in Baghdad *[AL-'IRAQ 13 Mar]* 46
Ramadan Inspects Al-Najaf Province, District *[Baghdad Radio]* 46

National Assembly Session Set for 20 Mar *[Baghdad Radio]* 47
Rallying Around Saddam Urged To Save Homeland *[Baghdad Radio]* 47
Paper Attacks Opposition Meeting in Beirut *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 14 Mar]* 47

## ISRAEL

Health Minister on Readiness To Talk With Syria *[Jerusalem Radio]* 49
    Ready To Discuss 'Any Claim' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 49
    Shamir's Bureau Comments *[Jerusalem Radio]* 50
    Shamir: No Change in Golan Policy *[Jerusalem Radio]* 50
    Declares 'Not Happy' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 50
    Shamir Aide Ben-Aharon Comments *[Jerusalem Radio]* 50
    Military Sources on Syrian Strategy *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 52
Cabinet Views Immigration, Regional Conference *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 52
    Views Baker Visit, Arab Stance *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 53
    Sharon: Apply State Law to Territories *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 53
    Shamir Wants Public Arab Statements *[Jerusalem TV]* 53
U.S. Levi Support Termed 'Blatant Intervention' *[MA'ARIV 18 Mar]* 54
Notables Threatened PLO To Meet Baker Secretly *[Jerusalem TV]* 54
Katyushas Ready To Fire During Baker Visit *[MA'ARIV 13 Mar]* 54
PLO's Abu-Sharif Criticizes Faysal Al-Husayni *[Jerusalem TV]* 54
Ethiopia Halts Emigration in Quest for Gas, Arms *[THE JERUSALEM POST 11 Mar]* 54
    Administrative Efforts Under Way *[Jerusalem TV]* 55
    'Weapons for Jews' Deal Denied *[Jerusalem TV]* 55
Talks With Egypt on Palestinian Delegation Denied *[DAVAR 18 Mar]* 55
Dumas Regrets Cancellation of Levi Paris Visit *[Jerusalem Radio]* 56
Arabs Allowed Into All Areas Within Green Line *[Jerusalem Radio]* 56
Talks With FRG for Third Patriot Launcher *[THE JERUSALEM POST 11 Mar]* 56
Papal Delegation Visits, Denies Change in Policy *[Jerusalem TV]* 56

## JORDAN

Prince Hasan Says Bush, King Should Meet Soon *[Amman Radio]* 57
    Leaves for Visit to Canada, UK *[Amman Radio]* 57
Islamic Jihad Members, Leader's Sons Arrested *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 57
Red Crescent Delegation Returns From Baghdad *[JORDAN TIMES 17 Mar]* 57
House Deputies Divided Over U.S. Statement *[JORDAN TIMES 14-15 Mar]* 58
Deputy: Jews Have 'No Right at All' in Palestine *[AL-DUSTUR 15 Mar]* 58
Al-Masri on Protection of Nationals in Kuwait *[JORDAN TIMES 14-15 Mar]* 58
Editorial Warns of U.S. 'Conspiracies' in Region *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 15 Mar]* 59
Paper Assesses 'Failure' of Baker-Israel Talks *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 14 Mar]* 59
Editorial Views Iranian Role in Iraqi Rebellion *[JORDAN TIMES 17 Mar]* 60

## LEBANON

Syria's Khaddam Arrives on 'Unexpected' Visit 61
    Meets With Al-Hirawi *[RFI]* 61
    Comments on Talks *[VOL]* 61
    Departs After Meeting *[VOL]* 62
Sa'adah: 'Nothing New' Regarding Cabinet Boycott *[Beirut Radio]* 62
    Said Willing To Join Government *[Voice of the Mountain]* 62
302 Released Palestinians Arrive in Sidon *[VOL]* 62
Karami on Disbanding Militias, Resolution 425 *[Beirut Radio]* 63
Al-Husayni Says U.S. Supports Al-Ta'if Accord *[VOL]* 63
Radio Cites Three Points in Damascus Talks *[RFI]* 64
Al-Asad Affirms Support in Cable to Al-Hirawi *[Beirut Radio]* 64
Hostage Problem Said 'Heading Toward Solution' *[MENA]* 64
U.S. Weapons Reportedly To Arrive 'Tomorrow' *[Beirut Radio]* 64
Ministers Officially Reopen Beirut Port *[VOL]* 64

- Hizballah Radio Reviews Iraqi Insurgency Events *[Voice of the Oppressed]* .......... 64
- Amal Urges Iraqis To Confront Saddam, U.S. *[Voice of the Oppressed]* .......... 65
- Shams al-Din Rejects New Deputies' Appointment *[VOL]* .......... 65

## SYRIA

- Saudi Commander Arrives, Meets Defense Minister *[Damascus Radio]* .......... 66
  - Meets With Al-Asad *[Damascus Radio]* .......... 66
  - Departs Damascus *[Damascus Radio]* .......... 66
- Al-Asad Receives Call From King Husayn *[Damascus Radio]* .......... 66
- Press Views Recent Developments in U.S. Policy .......... 66
  - 'Qualitative' Progress Seen *[Damascus Radio]* .......... 66
  - 'Positive, Constructive Steps' *[Damascus Radio]* .......... 67
- Commentary Reacts to Saddam Husayn Speech *[Damascus Radio]* .......... 67
- TISHRIN on Peace in Middle East, UN Role *[SANA]* .......... 68

## SOUTH ASIA

### Afghanistan

- Government Declares Cease-Fire During Ramadan *[Kabul Radio]* .......... 69
  - 'Extremists' Plan Attacks *[Kabul Radio]* .......... 69
  - 'Extremists' Violate Cease-Fire *[Kabul Radio]* .......... 69
- Mujahidin Destroy Military Base in Paktia *[Islamabad Radio]* .......... 69

### Bangladesh

- 12 New Parliament Members Take Oath of Office *[Dhaka International]* .......... 69
  - Khaleda Zia, Others Sworn In *[Dhaka International]* .......... 69
- BNP Leader Outlines Party Objectives *[Dhaka Radio]* .......... 70
- Shanti Bahini Kill 5 in First Attack Since Dec *[AFP]* .......... 70
  - Troops Placed on Alert *[AFP]* .......... 70

### India

- President Bush's Idea of New World Order Viewed *[Delhi International]* .......... 70
- Editorial Praises Bush Move in Middle East *[INDIAN EXPRESS 9 Mar]* .......... 71
- Commentary Reviews U.S. Aid Cut to Pakistan *[Delhi International]* .......... 72
- China To Cooperate in Gulf Reconstruction *[Delhi Radio]* .......... 73
- Vice President Returns From Indian Ocean Tour *[Delhi Radio]* .......... 73
- Gandhi Urges 'Peaceful, Free, and Fair' Elections *[Delhi Radio]* .......... 73
- New Assam, Goa Governors Appointed 15 Mar *[Delhi Radio]* .......... 73
- No Decision on Elections in Kashmir, Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* .......... 73
- Shekhar Comments on Punjab, Assam Elections *[Delhi Radio]* .......... 73
- Bihar Unit of Lok Dal Merges With Janata Dal-S *[Delhi Radio]* .......... 74
- BJP Rejects Alliance With Parties in Elections *[Delhi Radio]* .......... 74
- Delhi Radio Details Preparations for Elections .......... 74
- West Bengal To Hold Assembly Elections in May *[Delhi Radio]* .......... 74

### Iran

- Hashemi-Rafsanjani Inspects Western Provinces .......... 74
  - Attends Oil Ministry Session *[Tehran Radio]* .......... 74
  - Visits Abadan Refinery, Khorramshar *[IRNA]* .......... 74
  - Opens Chemical Complex *[Tehran Radio]* .......... 75
  - Discusses Reconstruction Trend *[Tehran TV]* .......... 75
- President Comments on Internal Iraqi Situation .......... 77
  - Sees Disgust Over 'Massacre' *[IRNA]* .......... 77
  - Stresses Unity Between Clerics, People *[Tehran TV]* .......... 77
- Musavi-Ardebili Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons *[Tehran Radio]* .......... 78
  - Meshkini Sermon Discusses Iraq *[Tehran TV]* .......... 79

Paper Says Saddam's Fate Same as Ceausescu *[IRNA]* .......... 80
Iraqi Leaders Urged To Submit To People's Will *[Tehran TV]* .......... 80
'Day of Mourning' Declared For Iraqi Violence .......... 80
  Leader's Bureau Issues Statement *[Tehran TV]* .......... 80
  Groups Observe Mourning *[Tehran Radio]* .......... 80
Daily Urges Upgrading Missile Defense Systems *[IRNA]* .......... 81
Commentary Analyzes Balance of Power in Gulf *[ABRAR 4 Mar]* .......... 81
Velayati Returns From Oman, Comments on Visit *[Tehran Radio]* .......... 81
Kuwaiti Envoy Denies Plans To Give Up Islands *[Tehran Radio]* .......... 81
Besharati Meets Kuwaiti, Pakistani Envoys *[IRNA]* .......... 82
Turkey Eyes Leading Role in Mideast Security *[ABRAR 25 Feb]* .......... 82
Editorial Views Contemporary Issues Facing Islam *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 5 Mar]* .......... 83
Interior Ministry Communique on Election Results *[Tehran Radio]* .......... 84
Mohtashemi's Magazine Suspends Publication *[AFP]* .......... 84
Soviet Forces Reportedly Stationed in Iran *[Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio]* .......... 84

**Pakistan**

U.S.-Supplied Nuclear Research Reactor Modified *[AFP]* .......... 85
Sharif Pledges To Strengthen Armed Forces *[Islamabad International]* .......... 85
Army Chief Beg Denies Political Ambitions *[AFP]* .......... 85
Ministers Announce 12 Percent Oil Price Reduction *[Islamabad Radio]* .......... 85

## Palestinian Affairs

### 'Arafat Praises Algeria, Palestinian Struggle

*LD1603145991 Algiers APS in Arabic 0915 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] Tunis, 16 Mar (APS)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has given an exclusive interview to APS' Tunis correspondent in which he answered questions on the latest developments in the Palestinian and Arab arenas in general.

During the interview, the Palestinian president [words indistinct] stressed the PLO's determination to continue the struggle until "the Palestinian flag is raised over the walls of Jerusalem."

The Palestinian president praised the positive work which the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) has done and is currently doing for the sake of a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian issue based on international legitimacy, and in order to recreate an Arab epic [as heard].

While discussing the heroic struggle being waged by the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories, he repeatedly emphasized the great epic witnessed by Algeria for the sake of its liberation and continuing support, which the Algerian revolution has not spared giving the Palestinian revolution.

When he received the APS representative in his residence in Tunis, tears came to the eyes of Mr. 'Arafat, who recalled at the very beginning that he still remembers the number 141 of the first passport which he obtained, which was delivered to him by the late Mohamed Khider and Mr. Rabah Bitat at Villa Jolie, the first headquarters of the presidency of the Government of Algeria after independence, and still remembers in detail the picture of Villa Jolie at the time.

In reply to a question regarding the prospects available to the Palestinian people within the U.S. initiative, President 'Arafat said: "First of all, I would like to ask the U.S. President if he is still committed to that initiative which he announced before the Congress and which he rejected within 48 hours in an interview he gave to (?Western) journalists, when he said: "No to the PLO and no to the Palestine state." Thus, where are the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people, as defined by the UN resolutions and as defined by the resolutions of the Palestine National Council [PNC], which affirm the right to return, to self-determination, and to establish the Palestinian state on the land of Palestine?

Here I draw attention to the serious thing that has recently happened: The Israeli parliament's welcome of the initiative announced by Shamir in 1989, which is nothing but the estbalishment of Bantustans for the Palestinian people. Does this mean that the U.S. initiative is based on Shamir's initiative, or is it the initiative of President Bush?

The second question I ask: Does the U.S. Administration intend to implement [passage indistinct] the implementation of international legitimacy as President Bush understands it, and in his opinion legitimacy differs from one place to another. During the Gulf crisis he repeatedly said that once the crisis was over, he would immediately embark on finding a solution to the Palestine problem, especially that the idea of the linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Palestine problem was submitted persistently and firmly by Iraq. Here I would like to repeat that the ball is now in the court of the U.S. Administration.

As for the memorandum of the Palestinian delegation presented to the U.S. secretary of state, and which contains eleven points underlining the legitimate demands of the Palestinian people, President 'Arafat said: "What has recently taken place in the occupied territories was in complete coordination between us and our leaderships inside the occupied territories. The unity that exists between the Palestinian people inside and outside the territories is the rock on which all the plots, highlighted by the AMU summit held in Libya, smash."

About reports recently attributed to Mr. Bassam Abu-Sharif, President 'Arafat said: This is an attempt by the United States and some Europeans that aims at getting a grip on the PLO, not at individuals.

He added that the PLO and its leadership, in its capacity as the leadership of the Palestinian people, represents the irrefutable rights of the Palestinian people which were adopted by the National Council, national independence in their language.

As a matter of fact, everything that is happening now had already happened to the [Algerian] National Liberation Front [FLN] at the time of its struggle against colonialism and the attempts of all the socialist, and after that De Gaulle—most recently, when he wanted to fly in alternatives to the FLN, and the people took to the streets to call out loudly its attachment to its legitimate leadership, to the FLN.

Any leadership which accepts such concessions does not deserve to remain in its position. Our leadership, which was elected in accordance with the resolutions of the Palestine National Council—Algeria is a witness to that—considers that any deviation from this course is treason. The statements which were recently attributed to Bassam Abu-Sharif do not at all represent the PLO's views; the organization has denied them, as has Bassam Abu-Sharif in his own voice on Radio Mediterranean [Itha'at al-Bahr al-Abyadh al-Mutawassit] and Radio Monte Carlo. Radio stations such as these aim to distort the Palestinian image.

I affirm that, after all this long and bitter struggle, we believe that the only solution is to raise the Palestinian flag over the walls of Jerusalem and the minarets and churches of holy Jerusalem, the capital of the independent state of Palestine.

## 'Abd-Rabbuh: PLO Ready for Israeli Peace Talks

*JN1603093991 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 Mar 91 p 3*

[By Maryam M. Shahin, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is ready for peace talks with Israel, the United States and the United Nations as soon as U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 are implemented, said PLO Minister of Information Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh.

"What is important for us is for the Unitd States and Israel to be willing to accept the application of the Security Council resolutions and the concept of international legality supervising the application of the resolutions concerning our cause as they have done in connection with the Gulf crisis," Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh told the Jordan Times.

The PLO spokesman said that the PLO had for long been willing to sit down at the negotiating table in a wider framework and as part of an Arab delegation. "We asked for a united Arab delegation, but this was rejected by the United States and Israel; they want a united Arab delegation, but without the PLO.

The PLO's main objective now, he said, was to "work together with other Arab countries and international forces in order to apply the international legality to make Israel withdraw completely from the occupied Palestinian territories and to have peace and security in this region."

Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh said that the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship had grown closer over the last several years. "Since 1988 we began a new stage in our relationship with Jordan which is based on the Jordanian recognition of the Palestinian state, the role of the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people and, on our side, respect of Jordanian sovereignty as a brotherly country."

Speculations that the PLO would have to change its leadership if it wanted to participate in any talks with the United States or even other Arab countries were dismissed by Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh. "Even if there will be changes, these changes will be on a democratic basis and through the institutions of the PLO; we are not afraid of criticism, we are not afraid of changes through democratic means."

He said that Secretary of State James Baker's meeting with a Palestinian delegation that was approved by the PLO just proved that the PLO is a decisive factor in any talks that anyone wants to have with the Palestinians.

Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh said that Secretary of State James Baker failed to mention what President George Bush clearly spelled out as an acceptable framework for a solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, namely resolutions 242 and 338 as well as the concept of land for peace.

"When Secretary of State James Baker came to the region he talked of something different... the mechanism he is suggesting has nothing to do with these resolutions. He is talking about solving the conflict between Arab states and Israel and putting under shadow the basic issue—that is the Palestinian question. He is no more suggesting direct negotiations between a Palestinian delegation and Israel, he is no more suggesting the framework for these talks and he is no more suggesting a role for the Security Council which played a major role concerning the Gulf," Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh said.

He said that a framework was not being introduced to bring about a concrete application of the resolutions; "they are talking about resolutions but they are not introducing any mechanism, it looks as if they are avoiding once again dealing seriously with the Palestinian question and are freezing this question as they have done before." Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh warned that if nothing is done to solve the Palestinian issue "new explosions will occur in the region." "The road to peace," said the PLO official, "is quite clear; we are calling for negotiations between the concerned parties; between the PLO, representing the Palestinian people, and the government of Israel... we are talking about an international unmbrella for these talks and negotiations. This could be the Security Council."

"The basis of peace," he said, "would be the resolutions of the Security Council that have not been applied for more than twenty three years now, beginning with 242 which calls for the complete withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Palestinian territories."

He said that differences of opinion concerning the PLO stand in the Gulf crisis should not alter the position of the PLO at the peace table. "If we have differences of opinion concerning the Gulf this does not mean we no more represent our people. ... We believe that the United States was not serious in trying to find a political solution to the Gulf crisis.

"Yasir 'Arafat," Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh reiterated, "became the leader of the Palestinian people because this was the will of the Palestinian people."

Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh said the PLO was ready in principle to resume talks wit the U.S. "We are ready (to resume talks with the United States), but it depends on the United States and I don't know what new conditions they might have ... but sooner or later the U.S. will have no other way except direct talks with the Palestinians, that is through the PLO."

## PLO Thanks Syria For Releasing Palestinians

*LD1503184191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] The official spokesman of the PLO Executive Committee has issued the following statement: During the past two days, the Syrian Government released several hundred Palestinian detainees. While expressing its appreciation of this positive step, the PLO hopes that it will lead to more measures and steps which will help in confronting the schemes plotted against the Palestinian people, their sacred cause, and the blessed intifadah of our people—and which would contribute to clarifying the Arab atmosphere and create suitable conditions for restoring the unity of the Arab position under these grave circumstances of destiny in which our Arab nation lives.

## PLO Leaders Experiencing 'Sharp Differences'

*PM1503120591 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 12 mar 91 pp 1, 5*

[Unattributed report: "Hani Al-Hasan Awaiting Riyadh Visit Request Approval"]

[Text] Tunis, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—An informed Palestinian source has revealed sharp differences within the PLO as a result of some of its leaders' support for the occupation of Kuwait.

The source, who wished to remain anonymous, has told SAWT AL-KUWAYT that the recent meeting held by Palestinian leaders in Tunis a few days ago, attended by Yasir 'Arafat, George Habash, Abu-'Ali Mustafa, Faruq Qaddumi, Hani al-Hasan, Jamal al-Surani and other leaders from Fatah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], the Democratic Front [DFLP], the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF], the Palestinian Communist Party, and the pro-Iraq Arab Liberation Front [ALF], witnessed heated arguments and sharp criticism of the Palestinian leaderships which had supported the Iraqi regime without showing any regard for the interests of the Palestinian communities in Kuwait and the rest of the Gulf states.

The source added that a strong trend emerged during the meeting in favor of seeking the rebuilding of bridges with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the Arab Gulf states and urging flexibility in dealing with the U.S. Administration's plan for the settlement of the Middle East question.

The same source confirmed that PLO Executive Committee Member Jamal al-Surani and 'Arafat's adviser, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, were most enthusiastically in favor of the normalization of Egyptian-Palestinian relations, and they tipped President Husni Mubarak to play the part of mediator between the PLO and the U.S. Administration.

The source also said that Fatah Central Committee Member Hani al-Hasan, who is also 'Arafat's adviser, insisted on normalization of Palestinian-Saudi relations as a prelude to the normalization of Palestinian relations with the rest of the Arab Gulf states.

The source added that at the end of the meeting it was decided to send Jamal al-Surani to Cairo and Hani al-Hasan to Riyadh to sound out Egypt and Saudi Arabia on the normalization of ties with the PLO.

In a statement to SAWT AL-KUWAYT, Hani al-Hasan acknowledged that there was a Palestinian inclination to send him to Riyadh, but he said he needed more time before he could talk about details related to this matter. Al-Hasan did not explain why he was reluctant to talk, but it is believed that it had something to do with Riyadh's reaction to the proposal and the extent of its willingness to receive a high-ranking Palestinian delegation at this particular time.

## Bush, Mitterrand Disagree at Talks on Mideast

*LD1503184991 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] U.S. President Bush and French President Mitterrand agreed yesterday, Thursday, that now is the time to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict. However, they did not adopt a joint position toward the method of achieving this.

Mitterrand announced that the PLO is still the legitimate representative of the Palestinians and that he still thinks that holding an international conference would be a good opportunity for settling the conflict. Bush said, however, that Yasir 'Arafat's support to Iraq during the Gulf war has weakened confidence in him. Bush added that he opposes holding an international conference at the moment, but he did not completely reject Mitterrand's proposal to hold a summit conference for the permanent members of the UN Security Council to discuss the Middle East issue.

The two presidents disagreed on whether or not to establish a Palestinian state. Bush said that he opposed this, while Mitterrand pointed out that the UN resolutions, which established Israel, called for establishing two states. He said: It is dangerous to refuse to grant a people any form of identity.

## Envoy to Spain Comments on Baker Meeting

*LD1303025791 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Mar 91*

[Interview with 'Isam Kamil al-Salim, PLO representative in Spain, by correspondent Antonio Alonso; place and date not given—Alonso presents recorded excerpts of interview]

[[Text] [Alonso] The PLO representative in Spain, 'Isam Kamil al-Salim, described the meeting held today in Jerusalem by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and the delegation of Palestinian figures as a very positive step in the search for a solution to the Palestinian question. Al-Salim stressed above all that the important thing is that the dialogue between the PLO and Washington be resumed as soon as possible, citing Baker's statement that the suspension of the talks between the two sides is temporary.

[Al-Salim] If it really is a question of finding a peaceful solution to the Palestinian question and the whole of the conflict in the Middle East, the United States must talk to the [words indistinct] interlocutor, which is the PLO. Second, these efforts are not new. The United States—Baker himself—had his own initiative, which did not help at all, because of Israel's intransigence. Now I think that everything depends on the United States and Israel. If they are really prepared to reach a peaceful conclusion, we, the Palestinians, the PLO, are prepared to do so.

[Alonso] A disposition to dialogue, underlined by the PLO representative in Spain, who summed up the Palestinian position with regard to negotiations as follows:

[Al-Salim] Our stance is very well known. It is in accordance with the application of all the resolutions of the United Nations and for a just and lasting peace giving peace and security to all the peoples of the region, but with one single condition: the Palestinian people have the innate right to self-determination and to the establishment of their own independent state.

[Alonso] Finally, Al-Salim appraised very positively the statements in Cairo by Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez, on Madrid's relations with the PLO, the international peace conference on the Middle East, and the need to find a negotiated solution to the Palestinian question.

[Al-Salim] As Palestinians, as the PLO, we appraise this very positively. (?We realize) that Spain's stance is very important and that Spain can—and we think it is going to—play a very important role in the search for peace in this region of the Mediterranean uniting both Arabs and Spaniards.

## Committee Members Meet With Jordan's Badran

*LD1403102791 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 13 Mar 91*

[Text] In the framework of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination, two members of the PLO Executive Committee, Mahmud 'Abbas and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, met yesterday with Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran. The talks focused on ways of cooperating to achieve a just, comprehensive, and permanent peace in the region, based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and on guaranteeing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

## Fatah Official Calls For Armed Struggle

*NC1603084391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] Palestinian struggler Abu-'Ali Shahin, member of the Revolutionary Council of the Palestinian Liberation Movement—Fatah, has stressed that the American-Atlantic-Zionist aggression has failed to achieve its objectives.

In an interview with AL-THAWRAH paper published today, he said that the Arab homeland has stood with Iraq in its challenge to U.S. hegemony and in its steadfastness against the aggressors who have sought to destroy its resources that support the pan-Arab will and all the forces seeking justice, freedom, and peace.

He added that President Saddam Husayn has become a pan-Arab symbol who has scared the nation's enemies and prepared the sons of the nation to challenge the foreign powers and to achieve renaissance. He called for ending the Zionist occupation through armed struggle to wrest back the occupied territories.

## PLO in London Criticizes Abu-Sharif

*NC1503200791 Paris AFP in English 1554 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] London, March 15 (AFP)—The Palestine Liberation Organisation's representative in London, 'Afif Safiyah, Friday issued a statement branding an adviser to Yasir 'Arafat as a media-seeking political activist.

The statement came two days after the British television channel Sky quoted Bassam Abu-Sharif, a close adviser to PLO Chairman 'Arafat, as saying that the PLO was prepared to offer territorial concessions to Israel in return for a Palestinian state.

Mr. Safiyah said that "what took place in London was not a PLO initiative but a Sky initiative that did not fly high."

"It was a blunder and not a balloon, jointly perpetrated by a journalist who unscrupulously sought a scoop and a political activist who never disdained any type of media attention."

Mr. Abu-Sharif abruptly cancelled a scheduled news conference to be held Thursday after the PLO in Tunis dismissed his assertion.

But a foreign office spokesman said that Mr. Abu-Sharif had lunch Thursday with British Assistant Under-Secretary for Middle East affairs David Gore-Booth during which they discussed the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Safiyah said that he had asked the Palestinian leadership "to instruct officials to distinguish, when in London, between a private visit and an official one."

## Qaddumi on Efforts To Resolve Palestine Issue

*NC1003162891 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Mar 91*

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri met with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, in his office this evening. During the meeting, they reviewed the latest developments in the region and Jordanian political developments, as well as the outcome of the visits by the European Troika and the Canadian secretary of state for external affairs.

Asked by our correspondent about the PLO's position on the recent U.S. initiative to reach a political settlement to the Middle East crisis, Qaddumi said:

"It seems that there were positive factors, as the PLO has noted, in President Bush's speech. Such positive talk must, however, be followed by action. In other words, there must be a resolution by the Security Council, an international conference, or a resolution and statement by the Security Council's five permanent members. This is necessary because, regrettably, we are used to hearing positive words, but they are never followed by action. This is our usual experience with successive U.S. administrations. It is feared that these positive words are nothing more than an attempt to defuse Arab wrath following the U.S. aggression against fraternal Iraq. We must be very cautious. We are in a strong and confident position. We are not weak as the West claims."

On the European Troika's tour of the region, he said: "It is known that the Palestinian peaceful initiative came in response to the efforts of many countries, including the European countries that issued a joint statement in Madrid. In the end, however, it became evident that the European countries were following the United States and changing their positions continuously. We affirm that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and no power can represent them unless it so decides. Neither the European countries nor the United States can change the PLO. Peace will only come to the region when an independent Palestinian state is established. We are willing to struggle for decades. In the end, this state will be established."

Asked about the effect of the recent events on the Palestinian intifadah, Qaddumi said: "The battle and those missiles undermined the Israeli security theory, as Bush himself acknowledged. Geographical borders are not important; peace is. No doubt, our people inside have clearly recognized their growing power and confidence and realize that the Arab capabilities will eventually achieve victory, even if this takes some time. The masses will continue this struggle and will not be deceived by the ongoing Western propaganda that seeks to undermine their morale and struggle. We will continue this struggle. The masses are fully aware that we have made strides toward regaining our occupied land and achieving our independence. These are the aware Palestinian masses who will never abandon the struggle. The intifadah continues to escalate, and its awareness of regional realities and its ability to achieve our national objectives has increased."

### Detained Palestinians Reaffirm Support for PLO

*LD1403095391 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 13 Mar 91*

[Text] The Palestinian personalities under administrative detention, Radwan Abu-'Ayyad, the head of the Arab Journalists League, Ziyad Abu-Ziyad, the lawyer and journalist; and Dr. Sari Nusaybah, the head of the Philosophy Department of Bir Zayt University, have stressed that any attempt to bypass the PLO will be bound to fail, and that talks aimed at achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region cannot take place without coordination with the PLO.

## OPEC Affairs

### OPEC To Discuss Future Production, Pricing

*LD1103143191 Vienna OPECNA in English 1312 GMT 11 Mar 91*

[Excerpts] Geneva 11 Mar. 91 (OPECNA)—Oil and energy ministers and representatives of OPEC member countries are due to start a meeting here today at 1100 GMT with the possibility of a new production and pricing strategy being worked out for the second quarter of this year.

The OPEC delegations are to meet under the umbrella of the organization's Market Monitoring Committee (MMC), but in case decisions regarding production or price require to be taken, the meeting can be declared an extraordinary OPEC conference. The committee will also consider how best to stabilize the market and find the right oil price level. [passage omitted]

An informed source told OPECNA that issues of "paramount" importance at the meeting would be the current oil glut, high oil inventories and over-production by some members. The meeting, he added, would also consider what steps to take to prevent a "further erosion of prices by contriving a plan to stabilize the market, perhaps by trimming production".

### Indonesia Urging Saudis To Cut Oil Output

*BK1203090291 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0803 GMT 12 Mar 91*

[Text] Geneva, Mar 12 (OANA-ANTARA)—Indonesia and other non-Gulf OPEC member countries will try to persuade Saudi Arabia to cut its oil output in an effort to reach an OPEC reference price of 21 U.S. dollars a barrel.

Saudi Arabia in the first day of a meeting of OPEC's ministerial monitoring committee here Monday was sticking to its stand for not cutting its current oil production of 8.3 million BPD [barrels per day].

Indonesia and other non-Gulf OPEC members in the second day of the meeting on Tuesday will try to persuade Saudi Arabia to cut its oil output by 15 percent to 5.38 million BPD to bring back the current world oil price now standing at 19 U.S. dollars a barrel to the OPEC reference price of 21 U.S. dollars a barrel.

The first post-war OPEC meeting was taking place under tignt security measures. A metal detector was installed at main entrance to the Hotel Intercontinental where the meeting is taking place and OPEC ministers are staying.

Although the majority of the OPEC members, except Iraq which did not send its delegates to the meeting, agreed to cut their respective oil output, the world oil price especially in the second quarter of 1991 will depend on the result of the meeting.

Participants of the meeting had in fact put trust in Indonesia to persuade Saudi Arabia to cut its oil production.

We will do our best to save OPEC, but we hope what has happened will not happen again in the future, Indonesian Mines and Energy Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita said.

On Sunday, Minister Ginanjar held a series of meetings with Nigerian Oil Minister Jibril Aminu, Algerian Mines and Industry Minister Sadek Boussena, OPEC Secretary General Subroto, Iranian Oil Minister Hisham Nazer as part of the efforts to persuade Saudi Arabia to cut its oil production.

Minister Ginanjar did not go into details about the result of his meetings with the OPEC ministers.

Some delegates to the meeting earlier believed Saudi Arabia did not yet cut its oil output in the wake of the Gulf war because the situation in the Gulf region had not returned to normal.

## Boussena Reviews Need for $21 Reference Price

*LD1303104791 Algiers APS in English 1014 GMT 13 Mar 91*

[Text] Geneva, 13/03/91 (APS)—President of OPEC and Algerian Minister of Mines and Industry, Sadek Boussena indicated that it is necessary to reach a reference price of 21 dollars a barrel otherwise the market will impose its price to the OPEC, and consequently a crumbling of the oil prices may take place.

The president of the OPEC also explained that the countries belonging to the Organization (without Iraq) aim at safeguarding the reference price of 21 Dollars a barrel which was already kept last July. Next, to examine the questions relative to the global ceiling and the stocks of production per country.

According to close sources to the organization this price would have been accepted by the majority of the countries belonging to the OPEC. From the same sources, it was also noted that the great Gulf producers did not give their points of view thus it was indicated that such a "reserve" could mean a tacit support in so far as this price proposal was not rejected by the Gulf producers as it was expected. [as received]

## UAE Minister Views Agreement, Market Stability

*NC1303001291 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2055 GMT 12 Mar 91*

[Text] Geneva, 12 Mar (WAKH)—Yusuf 'Umayr Bin-Yusuf, United Arab Emirates [UAE] oil and mineral resources minister, has stressed that the UAE played a positive role in achieving the agreement reached by OPEC today.

In a statement to the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY, he said that the UAE will remain committed to the agreement approved today to reduce production to 22.3 million barrels per day in order to maintain the price level of $21 per barrel set by OPEC in the July 1990 agreement. He added: We are seeking to support the organization, preserve its unity, and achieve its aims of maintaining stability in the oil market and avoiding fluctuations in prices which harm everyone.

The UAE minister said that the OPEC agreement is a positive one that serves the oil-producing countries' interests and will restore balance to the oil market. He noted that OPEC's production had reached 23 million barrels a day before today's agreement. He stressed that OPEC is intent on achieving a balance in the oil market and that the Gulf states played a basic role in this in cooperation with the other member states. He added that the agreement will eliminate the surplus in supply by withdrawing some 700,000 barrels a day from the market. He expressed hope that stability will be restored to the market and that both producers and consumers will benefit from the agreement.

## Algeria

### OPEC's Viability, Post-War Strategy Questioned

*LD0703112691 Algiers APS in English 1020 GMT 7 Mar 91*

[Text] Algiers, 7 Mar (APS)—If the Gulf war seems to shrink back, oil war is opening a new front where OPEC and non-OPEC producers, oil producers and consumers do face eath other upon crucial and current questions. Therefore one should not exclude political challenges related to the post-Gulf war in which economic interests are inherent—and if oil producers, particular OPEC ones, are the first to undergo price decrease repercussions, industrialized countries, big energy consumers, the effects of this decrease which could determine a significant fall of production levels. They also build up strategies to control the international market by influencing various elements or by a endeavoring to compel producer countries to negotiate minimum prices in a swamped market with oil, and therefore an unbalance between supply and demand.

The Gulf war revealed that the international oil market has always undergone manipulations beyond producers circles and that it does no more obey law of supply and demand since more than a decade. Oil price drop from more than 40 dollars before the launching of the armed conflict last January 17 against Iraq to less than 15 dollars immediately after the beginning of the war, is the most evident proof that oil prices are nothing but a result of political manipulation that obey geostrategic considerations that are beyond producer countries' control.

One of the most important lessons one should draw from the Gulf war is that it failed all prognoses and all forecasts related to the oil market's behaviour, the evolution of prices. Hence, oil and the international market would never have been used as a confrontation instrument that totally slip out of economic analysis.

With the end of the Gulf war, an oil strategy, set up by the industrialized countries and to their sole benefit, is being confirmed from day to day. At the same time, attempts of shutting down OPEC, if not implosion threats, are initiated by some members of this organization. And at a time when Saudi Arabia tries to impose its point of view concerning the fixation of oil prices and production ceiling, if not a new distribution of production quotas, many consumer countries, mainly the United States, attempts to determine oil prices.

U.S. Energy Secretary James Watkins has recently stated he forecast that oil prices will vary between 18 and 21 dollars after the OPEC's meeting dated on next March 11th in Geneva. Does this mean that the prices fixed in July 1990 in Vienna will not be taken as a reference basis by the OPEC in its next consultations, which would confirm again that crude oil prices are decided elsewhere than the OPEC? Saudi position, according the first information that filtered within certain circles close to Riyadh, seems to ignore that a decision was already taken last July by the OPEC ministerial conference fixing minimum prices at 21 dollars per barrel for a ceiled production at 22.5 million barrels per day. At the close of the Gulf crisis launching last August and after the blockade against the Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil production, OPEC froze its decision of July and adopted it again once hostilities were over, as announced at the ministerial meeting last December in Vienna.

It would be indeed illusive to believe that the end of the Gulf War will mean, in the short run, the stabilization of the prices of the crude at a satisfying level corresponding at an equilibrium of the market, and there will be no more manipulations from the great consumers or from the international agency of energy. It seems that the time has not yet come when leaders of the Western oil consuming countries and certain producing countries accept to cooperate with OPEC if they are members. One wonders if the recent attacks from the press and certain Saudi oil and political milieu against Saddek Boussena, Algerian minister of mines and industry and acting president of OPEC are not the expression that the claim of an oil producing country and moreover OPEC member, for the respect of decisions taken by consensus, disturbs. Is it only then the manifestation of the future struggles that OPEC should face one more time if it wants to make its voice heard and defend its interests?

### Hamrouche, Legislators Discuss Economy, Strike

*LD1203193691 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Mar 91*

[Excerpt] Members of the People's National Assembly this evening held a meeting at Bin Khaldun Hall with members of the government led by Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche. The meeting was held at the prime minister's request. Correspondent Suad Serhane reports:

[Serhane] As was decided at the end of this morning's People's National Assembly session, the nation's deputies are meeting Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche this evening at Bin Khaldun Hall in the government palace to discuss the current economic conditions. They have increased in intensity recently and led to a general strike by the General Union of Algerian Workers.

This evening's meeting is being held in camera. The press has been prevented from attending. We have the right to question this measure being taken at a time when openness and democracy are being promoted and in light of citizens' rights to have information, particularly regarding an issue which concerns them directly. [passage omitted]

### Alleged Kuwaiti Harassment of Nationals Noted

*LD1403210391 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Mar 91*

[Text] Informed sources at the Foreign Ministry say the ministry is concerned about its subjects, ever since it has received news of the harassment of Algerian nationals in Kuwait last Tuesday. It is in touch with official Kuwaiti sources in order to acertain this, considering that American press sources which reported this from Kuwait are military sources stationed in the region.

The Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Algiers referred to the issue of the absence of our radio correspondent in Kuwait, as though this was our fault.

[Begin recording] [Charge d'affaires] Indeed, there is no confirmation of these reports. What we know and confirm is that there is no torture of any of the brothers. What is happening is that there are only a few who are being pursued legally among those who had cooperated with the Iraqi occupation, irrespective of their nationalities—even if Kuwaitis.

[Correspondent] Are these reports, which are being spread by American press sources, based on lies?

[Charge d'affaires] These are reports which serve their authors. The Americans also have a free press which spreads many reports. We in turn deny this. In Kuwait, we hear—and at times read in the press—much that is inaccurate; for instance, we heard before that the Palestinians were also exposed to excesses. I ask: Why should our brothers in the fraternal Arab Maghreb, whether in Algeria, Tunisia, or other countries, be subject to harassment and torture? These brothers used to serve and work with seriousness and honor in Kuwait—some of them for decades. I wish that in line with human rights the focus would be on the last seven months of Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. We would have wished that attention would be focused on such fields. [end recording]

### Explosion at PLO Office in Algiers Reported

*LD0703183691 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 7 Mar 91*

[Excerpts] An explosion of unidentified origin left two killed and two wounded this afternoon at 40 Rue Didouche Mourad in Algiers. The building housed the offices of several liberation movements, particularly the Palestinian, and administration services. At about 1500, there were two dead and one seriously wounded. [passage omitted]

The identity of the victims is still not known and neither is the origin of the explosion. The police are on the scene. The interior minister has also gone to see the explosion happened site.

### Two 'Arafat Bodyguards Killed

*NC0803121091 Paris AFP in English 1200 GMT 8 Mar 91*

[Text] Tunis, March 8 (AFP)—Two bodyguards for Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman Yasir 'Arafat were killed Thursday in an explosion in Algiers, reliable Palestinian sources said here Friday.

Two other people were wounded in the blast which ripped through the offices of Force 17, a PLO unit providing bodyguards to protect Mr. 'Arafat, the sources said. The offices are in a building which also houses the Eritrean Liberation Front and the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party of Druze leader Walid Junblatt.

A policeman in Algiers said the blast was caused when a gas canister exploded but witnesses said it could have "different origins" as there were no traces of a fire.

Mr. 'Arafat was meanwhile reported to be conducting normal business in Tunis, where he has been for the past few days, sources close to him said. On Friday the PLO chief chaired a meeting of the organisation's leadership, they added.

## Egypt

### Mubarak Rejects Intervening in Iraqi Conflict

*NC1603203191 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Excerpts] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today met with the faculty and students of al-Zaqaziq University, during which he fielded questions from professors and students. [passage omitted]

Following the two-and-a-half-hour meeting, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said President Mubarak's remarks addressed Egypt's position on the Gulf crisis. The minister said the president reiterated that Egypt's principled stand on the Gulf crisis stemmed from its support for right, legitimacy, and principles. [passage omitted]

On the continued crackdown on the Iraqi people's uprising and whether the situation warrants intervention by allied forces, the president said that what is taking place in Iraq is an internal conflict and therefore does not allow for intervention. It is up to the Iraqi people to choose their system of government and rulers. The president declared: We must say it loud and clear: No to the dismemberment of Iraq. The territorial integrity of Iraq is sacred. [passage omitted]

On the Palestine question, President Mubarak emphasized that it is the issue of all the Arabs, adding that, as always, Egypt will not spare itself in the cause of the Palestinian people's rights and aspirations. President Mubarak said: We respect Arab action and the Arab League decision that the PLO is still the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and that it is up to the Palestinian people to choose their leadership. [passage omitted]

On Egypt's role in the security arrangements and the reconstruction of Kuwait, President Mubarak stated that security must originate in the region itself and that Arab forces form its backbone. He said Egypt has a key role to play, and that through its Arab ties it should be possible for Egypt to achieve an integrated Arab security system.

He emphasized that Egypt's role in the areas of Arab security and labor as well as its potential contribution to rehabilitating Kuwait are welcomed by all sides.

On Arab solidarity, the president said that, along with all Arab countries, Egypt will make every effort to close Arabs ranks on true pan-Arab bases free from sloganeering and posturing. [passage omitted]

## Saudi Commander Continues Visit to Cairo

### Meets With Chief of Staff

*NC1303120391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 13 Mar 91*

[Text] Cairo, 13 Feb [date as received] (MENA)—A session of Egyptian-Saudi military talks was held this morning. The Egyptian side was led by Lieutenant General Safiy-al-Din Abu-Shinaf, chief of staff of the Armed Forces. The Saudi side was led by Staff Lt. Gen. Khalid Bin-Sultan, commander of the joint forces and the theater of operations in Saudi Arabia. The talks were attended by the members of the delegation accompanying Staff Lt. Gen. Khalid Bin-Sultan, as well as by senior Egyptian Armed Forces commanders.

The talks dealt with the relations of military cooperation between the two countries, the latest developments of the situation in the Gulf region, as well as the future of the region in the light of the Damascus Declaration. The talks were preceded by an official welcome ceremony for Staff Lt. Gen. Khalid at the Armed Forces Headquarters in Nasr city.

### Discusses Military Cooperation

*NC1303223491 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Mar 91*

[Text] General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, Armed Forces commander in chief and minister of defense and war production, today received Staff Lieutenant General Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, commander of the joint forces and the theater of operations in the Kuwait liberation war.

The defense minister said: We are honored by this visit, the first by Lt. Gen. Khalid since the successful operations that culminated in the liberation of Kuwait. He added: We exchanged views on the war operations and their (?role). If the October war experience marks the birth of Egypt's modern military, then the war to liberate Kuwait is an important milestone in the history of the Saudi, Kuwaiti, and Egyptian military, the lessons of which will be added to world's military science.

He said: We discussed all aspects of future cooperation, including the exchange of expertise, training, and military industrialization.

For his part, Lt. Gen. Khalid Bin-Sultan said the meeting dealt with maintaining the morale of the forces in the theater of operations. He added that the Kingdom will facilitate the performance of the minor pilgrimage for all military personnel present in the Gulf. He said that, with the advent of the month of Ramadan, leaves for military personnel in the Gulf will begin and means of communicating with them will be improved.

Lt. Gen. Khalid is scheduled to hold a news conference tomorrow at the conclusion of his visit, after which he will leave for home.

### Holds News Conference

*NC1403160791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 14 Mar 91*

[Text] Cairo, 14 Mar (MENA)—Staff Lieutenant General Khalid Bin-Sultan, commander of the joint forces and the operations theater in the Saudi territories, has said that the coalition Arab member states are currently studying four or five concepts regarding security arrangements in the region. He stressed that the security of Kuwait and the Gulf states will be achieved through the Arab forces. He said the other coalition forces will leave the region right after they fully implement their tasks. He stated that the door is open for any Arab state that wants to join the Damascus declaration concerning the Arab and Gulf security.

This statement was made at the joint news conference held today by Staff Lt. Gen. Khalid Bin-Sultan and Lt. Gen. Safiy al-Din Abu-Shanaf, the Egyptian chief of staff, at the conclusion of the Saudi official's visit to Egypt.

Answering a question on reports concerning the formation of an Arab army from the eight states, the Gulf Cooperation Council member states, and Egypt and Syria, Lt. Gen. Khalid Bin-Sultan said: This is realistic if it relates to joint training. If the issue is that of forming an Arab force to be deployed in a certain region or state without reason or objective, however, then this is unrealistic and difficult to implement.

Lt. Gen. Khalid Bin-Sultan said he expects a final cease-fire agreement will be reached between Iraq and Kuwait and the coalition forces week.

Replying to a question on whether or not the agreement includes reducing the Iraqi Army forces and disposing of chemical weapons and surface-to-surface missiles, he said the agreement will be an implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions and includes the issue of borders between the two countries.

He noted that the joint forces have supplied the Iraqi forces with vehicles to transport the prisoners and civilians from Iraq, in addition to the fuel needed for these vehicles. He said the number of Iraqi prisoners captured by the coalition forces totalled 62,000. He added: We hope Iraq will receive between 2,000 and 5,000 prisoners daily so that the Iraqi prisoners can spend part of the month of Ramadan in their country.

On the current situation in Iraq, Lt. Gen. Khalid Bin-Sultan said at the news conference before leaving Cairo that what is taking place in Iraq is extremely painful. He added: We do not interfere in any state's internal affairs. We also will not interfere in determining the future of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. All that we hope is that Iraq, its leadership and government, will be rational and work for the interests of the Iraqi people and not for personal gain. In this regard, Lt. Gen. Khalid expressed hope that the region will live in peace, security, and stability. He emphasized that if there is not a just solution to the Palestine question, then the region will not be stable. He said the Palestine question will continue to be the Arab state's cause. He asked, however, that the Palestinian leadership look after the Palestinian people's cause, and not its personal interests.

Regarding the positions of Turkey and Iran in the security arrangements and what has been said about their concerns over these arrangements, Lt. Gen Khalid Bin-Sultan said: We are not aware of these states' concern over the security arrangements in the region. He added: Our relations with these states are based on noninterference in internal affairs, mutual respect, and on dealing with the Arab and Islamic issues with an open mind away from media clamor.

Concerning the mines the Iraqi forces have planted in the operations theater, Lt. Gen. Khalid Bin-Sultan said at the conclusion of the news conference that the Iraqi forces handed the coalition forces some maps of the mines in the operations theater. He noted that some of the maps have not yet been received, but this is no problem. He said that there are some desert areas that might still be mined, but that this is not a cause for concern.

In his statements at the news conference, the Egyptian chief of staff praised the Egyptian-Kuwaiti joint action in liberating Kuwait, something which showed the strong relations between the two countries. In this respect, he stressed that the future stage will witness a strategic and comprehensive view of the road toward joint cooperation between Egypt on the one hand and Saudi Arabia and the Arab Gulf states on the other.

### Concludes Visit, Departs 14 Mar

*NC1403220991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1403 GMT 14 Mar 91*

[Text] Cairo, 14 Mar (MENA)—Staff Lieutenant General Khalid Bin-Sultan, commander of the joint forces and the theater of operations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and his accompanying delegation left Cairo today following a three-day visit to Egypt. He was seen off at the airport by Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Safiy al-Din Abu-Shanaf and a number of Armed Forces senior commanders.

## Ghali Confers With Israeli Knesset Members

*NC1403221391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1711 GMT 14 Mar 91*

[Text] Cairo, 14 Mar (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, today received El'azar Granot, leader of Israel's Mapam Party, and Ya'ir Tzaban, member of the Israeli Knesset's Foreign Relations and Security Committee, who are currently visiting Cairo. During the meeting, at which the situation in the Middle East was discussed, Dr. Ghali stressed the need to create an atmosphere conducive to progress in the peace process to achieve a just and comprehensive solution to the region's problems that guarantees the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

## Sources Note Contacts With Israel on Meetings

*NC1703211391 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] It has been learned from diplomatic sources in Cairo that contacts were held in the past two days between the Israeli Government and Egypt, during which Israel asked Egypt to arrange meetings between Israeli officials and Palestinians from inside the occupied territories with a view to reaching agreement on general points concerning the peace process. The reports said that Israel refused to give Cairo any particulars about its ideas for such meetings and said it preferred to disclose these ideas at the appropriate time. The reports added that these meetings would be held in response to a U.S. request to move the peace process forward and that these meetings would not stop in the event agreement on the points to be discussed was not reached.

The sources asserted that Cairo stressed the need for defined ideas on the basis of which discussion will be conducted during the talks, on the condition that these talks be linked to a specified timetable.

Meanwhile, it has been learned that the Egyptian Government has refused to provide the U.S. Administration with a list of Palestinian candidates for a dialogue with Israel after agreement with West Bank Palestinians is reached. In its reply to the U.S. request, Egypt asserted that it is inappropriate to exclude the PLO from the peace process and that the PLO is the party responsible for nominating candidates and [word indistinct] any forthcoming peace negotiations.

## Sources Say 'Arafat Request for Meeting Fails

*LD1103102391 London KUNA in Arabic 0935 GMT 11 Mar 91*

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Cairo, 11 Mar (KUNA)—Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo have noted the failure of the mission of a Palestinian envoy in connection with a request from the

PLO chairman, Yasir 'Arafat for a meeting with the Egyptian political leadership. Quoting these sources, the newspaper AL-WAFD reports that Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee and envoy of Yasir 'Arafat, left Cairo yesterday at the end of a 24-hour visit. The paper quotes Egyptian sources as saying that Egypt is convinced of the need to concentrate efforts during the coming stage on finding an acceptable Palestinian alternative to the current PLO leadership.

The PLO headed by Yasir 'Arafat has lost its credibility among the Arab and Western countries due to its pro-Iraqi [stand on the] aggression against and occupation of the State of Kuwait last August.

### 'Arafat Political Adviser Arrives in Cairo

*NC1303173091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1720 GMT 13 Mar 91*

[Text] Cairo, 13 Mar (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, arrived in Cairo from Jordan today.

### Cairo, Tehran To Open Interests Offices

*NC1203200691 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Mar 91*

[Text] Our reporter has learned that Egypt and Iran have decided to open interests offices in Tehran and Cairo as a first step toward the restoration of full diplomatic relations between the two countries. The Egyptian interests office, which will be headed by Ambassador Ahmad Namiq, is scheduled to open in Tehran next week.

### Interior Minister on Arrest of 'Terrorists'

*NC1403224391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1720 GMT 14 Mar 91*

[Excerpts] Cairo, 14 Mar (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa said that the number of people the Iraqi regime sent to Egypt to commit acts of terrorism has reached 68 following the arrest of another group of these elements at dawn today.

He added that those arrested have provided details about the tasks they were to have carried out in Egypt, and said that the Iraqi regime gave them between $500 and $1,000 each to enable them to carry out these tasks. They also said that this regime promised they would be given more money after completing their mission of sabotage and terrorism in Egypt.

This came during a meeting with students of the higher institute for agricultural cooperation in Shubra al-Khaymah today to mark the 30th anniversary of the institute's founding. [passage omitted]

The interior minister did not reveal the nationality of the terrorists. He pointed out, however, that the Iraqi regime recruited a number of the Egyptians working in Iraq to commit acts of sabotage after the groups this regime had sent to Egypt at the beginning of the Gulf crisis fell into the hands of the security forces. He said that the Iraqi regime was holding the families of these Egyptians to force them to carry out acts of sabotage in Egypt. He also that the Iraqi regime told some of these elements they could carry out their acts of sabotage in whatever area was easiest for them, while it tasked other elements with commiting acts of sabotage against specific targets such as residential areas, Gulf airline offices, and vital installations in Egypt.

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa said that some of the terrorists have confessed that the Iraqi regime drew up plans that would enable them to return to Iraq after carrying out their mission. The terrorists have also confessed that some elements were allowed to select their own targets. He pointed out that all those arrested have been referred to the prosecutor's office. [passage omitted]

### Group With Explosives Arrested at Red Sea Port

*NC1103212391 Paris AFP in English 2051 GMT 11 Mar 91*

[Text] Cairo, March 11 (AFP)—Egyptian police arrested a group of five people at the Red Sea port of Nuwaybi' as they attempted to enter the country with a load of explosives, police said. The five, of Egyptian and Iraqi nationality, admitted that they intended to "commit acts of sabotage in Egypt," and indicated that a second group was on its way to Egypt.

The Egyptian Interior Ministry has recently reinforced security measures in harbors and airports to prevent infiltration into the country.

### Article Comments on President Bush's Interview

*PM1403154691 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 11 Mar 91 p 1*

[Musa Sabri article: "The Press Scoop of 1991"]

[Text] Sa'id Sunbul's excellent interview with U.S. President Bush was indeed a splendid and supreme journalistic scoop of which we, the AL-AKHBAR family, are proud as we view it in relation to the world press in recent years. The magnificence and distinction of the interview of the year, 1991, were clear in the questions addressed by AL-AKHBAR's chief editor to President Bush covering all the Arab nation's preoccupations with the postwar problems. The U.S. President's answers were clear and detailed on almost all the issues raised. They were a message from America's top man to the peoples of the region, saying "this is our opinion and here is what we intend to do." The U.S. message also answers, in a civilized manner, the charges made against the United States and President Bush by the Iraqi tyrant and his supporters, particularly in connection with the demonstrations staged by the religious tendencies which portrayed the war for Kuwait's liberation as a religious war.

President Bush's answers were crystal clear on his position on the enemies of peace, the PLO chairman (the clown), King Husayn, regional security and development, relations with Syria, and Lebanon's future. When he spoke about peace with Israel, however, he only gave the main guidelines that he mentioned in his recent speech to Congress, pending, as he said, the results of Secretary of State Baker's tour. He denied there was a U.S. plan for the fulfillment of what he called "the Palestinian people's political rights."

For our part, expressing what we believe to be the views of the Egyptian public, we say to the U.S. President that we expect a positive and effective U.S. stance for the settlement of the Palestinian question. We do not want to return to the same old vicious circle of "it is difficult to deal with the Likud under Shamir... a new government led by the Labor Party would be more flexible, and we must help the Israeli public which supports land for peace... Zionist pressures inside the United States are of considerable importance and cannot be ignored, and so on." The Egyptian people are tired of all that.

The Israeli statements we are currently hearing do not herald good tidings. The arrogant Israeli style continues. It is no secret that Israel has nuclear weapons. That is what President Bush avoided talking about when Sa'id Sunbul asked him about President Mubarak's proposal on weapons of mass destruction.

Our message to the U.S. President is that if he thinks that what U.S. policy did in the war for Kuwait's liberation was a constructive achievement warranting no anti-American slogans, we say to him—most sincerely and with full appreciation of the U.S. position on the liberation of Kuwait—that the real test of U.S.-Arab relations would be quick, positive action to settle the question of the Palestinian people. That is they key to peace in the region.

We agree with the U.S. President that the clown [Yasir 'Arafat] has lost all credibility and we believe that he should disappear after all the crimes he has committed since Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. I am amazed by the claim made by the clown a couple of days ago that the Arab states which supported Kuwait still recognized him as PLO chairman. That is another great lie added to his heap of lies. He said so to the German paper DER SPIEGEL. Neither Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, nor any other Gulf state would deal with that charlatan. Syria adopted this position even before we did. That clown's aircraft is not allowed in these Arab states' air space. He must understand that he will be despised forever.

We do not agree with the U.S. President's description of the attitude of the occupant of Jordan's thorny throne. If Israel is trying hard to preserve its alliance with that hypocritical king and if the United States is afraid of the extremist alternative, then that is their business. To the Egyptian public, however, he is a hypocritical and treacherous ruler who epitomizes the very essence of cheap opportunism. May God's curse fall on any policy that would give a role—any role—to that person, who is now unashamedly backtracking on his conspiracy in the greatest catastrophe ever to hit the Arab nation.

Well, there will be thousands of comments in all world capitals on President Bush's statements to Sa'id Sunbul. My words today represent an initial impression after reading the interview, the press scoop of 1991.

### *Figures for 1990 Exports to Arabs, War Losses

*91P40173A Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 26 Feb 91 p 9*

[Report by Muhammad Talbah]

[Text] The amount of trade between Arab countries is very scant and does not compare with trade between these same countries and the outside world. Trade between Arabs is only about 3 percent of overall commercial dealings that they undertake with foreign countries! Since the outbreak of heated events in the Gulf, trade has ceased between Egypt and most Arab countries and has also diminished with other countries. Exporters' losses from August 1990 to January 1991 were approximately 300 million pounds. Before the Gulf events, Egypt exported 162 million pounds worth of goods to Saudi Arabia from January to October 1990 and imported goods worth 142 million pounds from Saudi Arabia during the same period. Exports to Kuwait totaled 28 million pounds and imports 17 million pounds. Exports to Bahrain were valued at 3 million pounds, while imports were at 10 million pounds. Exports to the United Arab Emirates were worth 24 million pounds and imports, 18 million pounds. Exports to Qatar were worth 7 million pounds and imports, 11 million pounds. As for Egyptian exports to Oman, they totaled 3 million pounds while imports were only at 60,000 pounds. The latest economic report indicated that Egypt's exports to Tunisia were valued at 27 million pounds and imports, 11 million pounds. Exports to Libya were worth 68 million pounds and imports were 25 million. As for exports to Morocco, they reached 13 million pounds, with imports reaching 2 million. Exports to Algeria were 10 million pounds, imports reached 23 million pounds. The report also confirmed a 10-percent increase in Egyptian exports to the Gulf countries immediately preceding the crisis. The report further indicated a 40- to 50-percent drop in Egypt's exports since the war.

## Libya

### Kuwaiti Amir Telephones Al-Qadhdhafi

*LD0203122991 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1128 GMT 2 Mar 91*

[Text] Tripoli, 2 Mar (JANA)—A telephone contact (?took place) this morning between the brother leader of the revolution, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and the amir of Kuwait.

### Al-Qadhdhafi Attends People's Committee Meeting

*LD0303010191 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 02 Mar 91*

[Excerpt] The brother leader of the revolution attended the meeting of people's committees in the city of Surt to mark the 14th anniversary of the proclamation of people's power and the birth of the first Jamahiriyah in history and to celebrate this historic day within the struggle of the peoples for dignity and salvation from all shackles of injustice, oppression, and exploitation, beginning with the role of the revolutionary committees in firmly establishing the people's authority and pushing the popular masses toward advanced positions every day.

When the brother leader of the revolution entered al-Wafa' hall in the struggling city of Surt, the members of the Revolutionary Committees Movement welcomed him with resounding revolutionary cheers, stressing the affirmation and renewal of the people's authority, the authority of all people. This affirms that the jamahiri system and the people's authority are indeed the future of humanity and will spread all over the world.

Members of the Revolutionary Committees Movement cheered their approval and renewed their adherence to the pioneering ideology of the al-Fatih revolution and Arab unity as the sole path for the loftiness, invincibility, and progress of the Arab nation and its confrontation with all imperialist and Zionist challenges threatening the future of the Arab world. [passage omitted]

### Al-Qadhdhafi To Send Weapons to Lebanon

*NC1203150891 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 11 Mar 91 p 7*

[Text] During his meeting with Lebanese Agriculture Minister Muhsin Dallul in his tent in Surt last Monday, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi pledged to send a ship loaded with weapons and agricultural aid to Lebanon. The ship will be loaded with 30 T-54 tanks, military vehicles, and equipment comprising a complete weapons system for an armored battalion. The ship will arrive in Lebanon within one week, or two weeks at the most.

### Source Notes U.S. Training of POW's in Chad

*LD1403163891 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1515 GMT 14 Mar 91*

[Text] Tripoli, 14 Mar. (JANA)—A responsible source at the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has commented on recent statements by U.S. Administration officials, who admitted that this administration had indeed trained Libyan prisoners who were in Chad, in an attempt to exploit them in acts of aggression and sabotage aimed at the security and safety of Libya.

The source recalled that the Great Jamahiriyah has already drawn attention to the fact that the U.S. Administration, in collaboration with its agents in the previous Chad Government, has forcibly trained Libyan prisoners against their will with the aim of using them in acts of aggression against their country. Here are the statements by U.S. officials confirming the correctness of what Libya had announced, thus revealing the true intentions of the U.S. Administration and its policy to the developing countries.

What confirms these intentions is that the U.S. Administration quickly transported the Libyan prisoners outside Chad in the wake of the collapse of the Habre regime, despite the fact that this represented an interference in the domestic affairs of the Republic of Chad, and a blatant violation of the principles of international law and conventions which the U.S. Government claims to uphold and pretends to defend.

Concluding his statement, the source affirmed that the Jamahiriyah sticks to demanding the return of these prisoners to their country, and that any measure contrary to this on the part of any state will be considered as being in contradiction to international law and conventions.

### Al-Qadhdhafi Hails Egypt-Sudan Media Compact

*LD0303160991 Tripoli JANA in English 1501 GMT 3 Mar 91*

[Text] Surt, 3 March, JANA—The leader of the revolution saluted the stand taken by Sudan and Egypt last Saturday stopping media campaigns against each other. The leader pointed out that officials in Egypt and Sudan realised that this time is not a time of vituperation and that this is the hour of seriousness, unity, resolution of disputes, healing of Arab wounds and that this is not the hour of exchanging insults.

The leader asked "What did we gain out of insult exchanges with each other? We, therefore, appreciate this responsible stance which was preceded by a similar stance between Tunisia and Egypt and that since two or three months ago the media attacks between Tunisia and Egypt stopped as the officials in the two sisterly countries realised that there was no benefit from such insults.

### Al-Qadhdhafi's Statement on Gulf War Outlined

*NC2702011591 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Feb 91 pp 1, 10*

[By Mahmud Bakri and 'Abd-al-Sattar Abu-Husayn]

[Text] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, announced that the current war in the Gulf will result in important strategic repercussions on the international level. He pointed out that the United States of today is not that of the past month nor that of next month, as it slips to a low level that threatens its international position.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi said Iraq has shattered the U.S. stature and position in the Gulf, while pointing out that neither the United States nor its follower, NATO, are qualified for, nor will be successful in, the role of international policeman, which the United States wants to be.

During his meeting with Egyptian journalists last Friday, al-Qadhdhafi wondered if the United States and its allies still fear a ground attack on a Third World country, Iraq. That would have been the case if the confrontation had been solely between Iraq and the United States, which is wandering all over the world seeking funds for the war it is waging.

Al-Qadhdhafi added that the world will be hostile to the United States after the war and that all people will be hostile to U.S. hegemony. He pointed out that any country that ties its fate to the United States will face disgrace and extinction.

On the recent Iraqi initiative, al-Qadhdhafi welcomed Iraq's Revolution Command Council's decision to stop the war and cautioned against the plan to replace Iraqi forces with foreign forces in Kuwait. He also stressed the need to guarantee the evacuation of all foreign forces from the Gulf.

Al-Qadhdhafi attacked the so-called new security preparations or new order in the region, while pointing out that it is an international conspiracy to dominate us.

Al-Qadhdhafi said that the Arabs want peace, but Israel will make war on us sooner or later. He pointed out that Israel is trying to dominate water resources in the Arab world, and that the Israeli ambitions from the Nile to the Euphrates still stand. He also pointed out that the Israelis cried while they evacuated Sinai, which means that they still consider it a part of Israel's holy land.

Al-Qadhdhafi spoke of the Jamahiriyah's efforts throughout the crisis and especially those prior to the war. He stressed that he spared no effort with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to resolve the crisis peacefully. He shed light on the Libyan initiative which Iraq finally accepted, and the visits to Baghdad by a number of Libyan Revolution Command Council members, particularly Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, Mustafa al-Kharrubi, and Ahmad Qadhdhaf al-Dam, general coordinator of Egyptian-Libyan relations. He also pointed out the efforts of a number of public figures who were asked to go to Iraq for the same purpose. Among these figures are Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashri, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council; and Daniel Ortega, former president of Nicaragua.

With regard to the essence of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti problem, he said that the Kuwaitis over-saturated the markets with about 12 million oil barrels until the price fell to five dollars per barrel. After pointing to the damage to the Iraqi economy caused by the international community, he said that this does not justify solving problems through occupation. He said that the solution is possible by renting Iraq an outlet to the north of the sea, and through negotiations resolving issues related to Iraqi compensations for the oil that was exploited by the Kuwaitis.

### 'Abd-al-Majid Sends Message on Damascus Meeting

*LD1803085691 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 18 Mar 91*

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Mar (JANA)—The brother secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation received a written message from Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

The message states that the Damascus declaration is a declaration of the principles on which there can be general agreement. It also says that the declaration shares the same bases as the Arab League Charter, the Joint Arab Defense Pact, and the Arab League economic cooperation treaty. The declaration urges that consolidation of the practical implementation of all these treaties and aims to restore Arab solidarity through the participation of all the Arab countries in shouldering the responsibilities and facing up to the challenges of the current phase.

In his message, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stresses that the Damascus declaration does not constitute an axis or a block against any party. He also refers to the depth of the strong fraternal relations between the two fraternal countries of Egypt and the Great Jamahiriyah.

## Morocco

### Pakistani Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

*BK1503153691 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has arrived in Morocco on an official visit. He said on his arrival there that he will exchange views with Moroccan authorities on the promotion of bilateral cooperation and on the post-Gulf war situation.

### Delegation of Soviet Businessmen Visits Meknes

*LD1203132591 Rabat MAP in English 1235 GMT 12 Mar 91*

[Text] Meknes, Mar. 12 (MAP/pool/UMA)—A delegation of Soviet businessmen is currently on a week long visit to Meknes (120 km north west of Rabat). The Soviet delegation held meetings with businessmen, tour operators and members of the Meknes Chamber of Commerce as well as with members of the Soviet-Moroccan Friendship Association.

According to the head of the delegation, the meetings enabled them to get better informed on the Moroccan trade experience. The USSR is interested in such experiences as it has embarked on economic overture, he said.

### * King Hassan Pardons 2,268 Detainees

*91P40170A Paris LE MONDE in French*
*3 March 91 p 7*

[Excerpt] AFP—On Friday 1 March the Ministry of Information announced that Hassan II had granted some measure of pardon to 2,268 detainees on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of his ascension to the throne. Of this number, 1,926 prisoners received a total pardon from the remainder of their sentences. As usual, no details were given concerning the beneficiaries of these measures. In this respect, the Polisario Front office in Paris recalled in a communique that the king "continues to detain hundreds of Saharans in his prisons in an arbitrary fashion." [passage omitted]

### * Amnesty Allegedly Excludes Human Rights Cases

*91P40175A Paris LE MONDE in French*
*5 Mar 91 p 10*

[Text] AFP—In his speech broadcast on radio and television on Sunday, 3 March, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of his ascension to the throne, Hassan II did not announce a general amnesty for political detainees. The liberation last week of General Mohamed Oufkir's family, who has been under "house arrest" for over 18 years, had given rise to speculation about a "gesture" on the part of the king, particularly in favor of Abraham Serfaty, one of the oldest political prisoners in the world, and his leftist companions. On Friday, the Ministry of Justice announced releases or sentence reductions for 2,268 prisoners. According to humanitarian organizations, however, these measures, which are traditional during national or religious celebrations, seem to concern only common-law detainees. The Cherifian [a term denoting descent from the Prophet Muhammad] sovereign affirmed that he "was taking into consideration" the question of human rights, especially since he had "led the battle to impose respect for human rights on colonialism." Nevertheless, he repeated that these rights must not undermine Morocco's "sacred values" such as the Islamic religion, the monarchy, and territorial integrity. In his opinion, they must "be exercised responsibly to guard against anarchy." The king admitted that, concerning human rights, "the means implemented (may) not ensure the ends satisfactorily" due to "errors particular to human nature."

On the other hand, the Cherifian sovereign promised that he "would make sure" that the next legislative and local elections "are free and honest" as "all true democracies require." This commitment should be received favorably by the opposition parties, which have continually denounced the irregularities that characterized the last elections.

### New Weekly 'EL KACHKOUL' Begins Publication

*LD1003130891 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT*
*10 Mar 91*

[Text] Rabat 10 Mar (MAP)—The first issue of the new Moroccan weekly 'EL KACHKOUL' has been published. The director is Mr. 'Abdallah Stouki. The newspaper is "without narrow ideological view and removed from political tribalism."

## Sudan

### Al-Bashir Welcomes Bush Remarks on Palestinians

*EA1403191591 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic*
*0430 GMT 14 Mar 91*

[Text] Sudan has affirmed its concern for the independence, unity, and territorial integrity of Iraq, and that it cannot accept its division nor the secession of any part of it under any circumstances. At the same time, Sudan is eager to see the freedom, independence, and territorial integrity of Kuwait.

This was announced during the regular meeting between Revolution Command Council [RCC] Chairman Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir and ministers with the press, including the director general of SUNA, in his office at the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers yesterday. Lt. Gen. 'Umar said that Sudan cannot accept interference in Iraqi internal affairs from any quarter and by the same token cannot accept Iraqi interference in others' affairs. His excellency pointed out that Sudan will play a role in bringing closer the viewpoints of Iraq and Iran through its desire for cordial relations between them. Lt. Gen. 'Umar also welcomed the decisions of the recent Maghreb summit, wishing it stability until it achieves its objectives. His excellency pointed out that Sudan welcomes any Arab grouping for comprehensive Arab unity, and it is reserved about any grouping dedicated to disunity and division.

In a separate development, Lt. Gen 'Umar declared Sudan's welcome for President Bush's recent statements on the Palestinian issue. He said it is an initiative we wish to become a firm U.S. stand, expressing a new U.S. view that moves toward solving the Palestinian issue in the light of UN Security Council resolutions, and not to be something temporary, subject to alteration and retreat. Sudan is also of the view that the solution should include all the occupied Arab territories in the Golan and the West Bank.

The meeting was attended by Colonel Ibrahim Shams al-Din, RCC member, and 'Ustadh 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, minister of culture and information.

### Palestinian Envoy Criticizes Bush Proposals

*EA1203153591 Khartoum SUNA in English 1022 GMT 12 Mar 91*

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Mar (SUNA)—Palestine's ambassador to Sudan, Abu-Raja'i, has criticized today the new security arrangements proposed by President Bush recently.

Abu-Raja'i, who was interviewed by the daily AL-INQADH AL-WATANI, said the American were not mandated to discuss such question. He condemned the U.S. proposals, describing them as flagrant lies. Abu-Raja'i said the Iraqis are still preserving their military capabilities but the enemies of Arabs who failed in destroying Iraq resort to the use of agents to unity and sovereignty (?of) Iraq. [sentence as received].

### Al-Bashir Receives Soviet Message on Mideast

*EA1303092891 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Mar 91*

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council, yesterday received a verbal message from the Soviet leadership on the situation in the Middle East. Mr. Valeriy Sukhin, the Soviet ambassador to Sudan, said he had delivered the message to Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir and had exchanged views with his excellency on current developments in the situation, and possible future developments. He added that the (?extent) of success and cooperation between the two countries (?in accordance with) [word indistinct] Soviet-Arab relations [words indistinct] stability in the region.

### Al-Bashir Assures Iranian Delegation on Shari'a

*EA1703224091 Khartoum SUNA in French 0929 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Mar (SUNA)—On Saturday in Khartoum, General 'Umar al-Bashir, the Revolution Command Council chairman, met Mr. Hojjat al-Eslam 'Abbas 'Ali Zanjani, member of the Majles and head of the Iranian delegation participating in the [word indistinct] the judicial reforms conference.

During the meeting, Gen. al-Bashir assured the Iranian official that Sudan is making efforts to establish an Islamic state where the shari'a is applied to all aspects of life. Al-Bashir also hailed the Iranian experience and stressed the importance of continuing cooperation between Sudan and Iran in all sectors.

### Al-Bashir Receives Message From Pope John Paul

*EA1403120291 Khartoum SUNA in English 0919 GMT 14 Mar 91*

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Mar (SUNA)—RCC [Revolution Command Council] Chairman 'Umar al-Bashir received yesterday the visiting emissary of Pope John Paul II who handed him a message from the pontiff on world peace and peace in South Sudan. During the encounter, Gen. al-Bashir expressed appreciation for the efforts exerted by Pope John Paul for the realisation of peace. Gen. al-Bashir noted that the federal system adopted by the revolution guarantees the rights of South Sudan citizens to practise their beliefs and cultures explaining that the Sudanese society respects religions, (?beliefs) and rights. Meanwhile, the RCC chairman was invited to visit the Vatican in the near future.

### Al-Bashir Says 'Conditional' Aid Unacceptable

*EA1403213691 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1024 GMT 14 Mar 91*

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Mar (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, Revolution Command Council chairman, has reaffirmed that Sudan will not accept conditional external assistance which pawns the will and [word indistinct]. Receiving homage yesterday from officers and soldiers from the al-Shajarah military area, his excellency said through the application of shari'a, the revolution desired the establishment of justice and equality between people.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir criticized the [word indistinct] which is led by the fugitive Fathi Ahmad 'Ali and his clique, who are lovers of anti-Sudan power. He said they sold themselves for a very low price [words indistinct] to fish in troubled waters during the Gulf crisis.

### Khalifah Chairs Meeting on 'New World Order'

*EA1203182491 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 12 Mar 91*

[Text] Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, Revolution Command Council member and head of the Peace and Foreign Relations Department, yesterday chaired the regular meeting of the Peace and Foreign Relations Department. The meeting heard a paper on the aspects of the new world order and its implications for the Arab region. The paper was presented by the head of the Foreign Ministry's Arab Department. The meeting later discussed the future of the Arab region following the outcome of the Gulf war.

The meeting stressed the need to continue moves to avert the dangers of the foreign presence and imperialist hegemony and to work for the unification of the Arab ranks against attempts of Western domination and the imposition of an order that would not serve the interests of the peoples in the region.

The meeting also stressed the need for unifying the Arab will to find a just solution to the Palestinian cause. It called for urgent moves in the African and Islamic countries to coordinate stands for a new world order.

## Al-Sadiq Followers Reject Contacts With Rebels

*EA1703174791 Omduran Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] The group for the reorganization of the Ansar [religious followers of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi] yesterday issued a statement concerning reports in the news media to the effect that some elements claiming to speak on behalf of the Ansar have met the rebels and their agents in a neighboring country in the name of the Democratic Alliance to plot against their country and its sovereignty and independence.

The group stressed that the Ansar [word indistinct] in Sudan distance themselves from this lie, they have not authorized any party to manipulate their name, and they did not permit the tarnishing of their reputation by associating with agents and rebels, (?adding that) nothing stands between the Ansar and the present government in Sudan—ther than love and support, particularly after it established Islamic law and invigorated its laws, responding to the wishes of the people and motivating them to work and produce. In its statement, the body called on the Ansar throughout Sudan to renounce these reckless acts, which are incompatible with their historical [word indistinct] reputation.

## Three-Year Compulsory National Service Instituted

*EA1703175691 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] The Council of Ministers, in its regular session yesterday chaired by Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, endorsed a report submitted by his excellency the justice minister and the attorney general, which contained some adjustments to the code concerning compulsory national service.

Professor 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, culture and information minister and the government's spokesman, stated that in light of the report it had been decided to make national service compulsory for all Sudanese between 18 and 30 years of age for a period of 36 months. He added that the resolution stipulates that the service will be in various areas, such as the Armed Forces, other regular forces, development projects, and economic and social projects. The various domains will be defined by the decision of the relevant minister. He added that the resolution contained a provision establishing a body to be supervised by an official council called the Council for Compulsory National Service.

The national service code contains regulations on exemptions, exceptions, the required degree of fitness, and the possibility of postponing service. The resolution also provides for issuance of a special card called the National Compulsory Service Card. The resolution directs that it is incumbent upon everyone who has reached the age of 21 years and not obtained the compulsory service card to avail himself of the training. [short break in transmission]) and it prevents any Sudanese between the ages of 18 and 30 years from leaving the country without obtaining a certificate of exception, a permanent or temporary exemption from service, or a service postponement certificate, or the certificate of exemption from compulsory service. He pointed out that the code contains other articles on the consequences that will ensue if this matter is ignored.

At its meeting yesterday, the Council also endorsed a report submitted by the joint Sudanese-Chadian ministerial committee on its recent meeting in Khartoum, which covered various issues in the field of cooperation among the judiciary and suggestions on forming committees to study the issue. The report also contained a protocol on passports, immigration, nationality, agreements concerning refugees, combatting illegal hunting, the economic and trade spheres, as well as transport, communication, education, information, cultural, and health issues. Prof. 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad stated that a number of committees will be formed and delegations exchanged so as to review former agreements between the two countries. Likewise, protocols and agreements will be formulated to regulate Sudanese-Chadian relations in all spheres.

## Celebration Hails Military Returning From Yei

*EA1303211591 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Mar 91*

[Text] Staff Major General Allison Manai Magaya, governor of Equatoria State, last Sunday [10 March] addressed the celebrations of the Equatoria military area over the victories of the Armed Forces and the forces of the Ummat al-Amjad [Nation of Glories] returning from Yei, commanded by Staff Colonel Yasin 'Abd al-Qadir. Maj. Gen Allison stressed the need to push efforts toward achieving peace in our country, and contributed 50,000 pounds for the forces returning from Yei.

In a separate development, Lieutenant General Hasan 'Abd al-Rahman 'Ali, deputy chief of staff for operations, spoke at the celebrations and pointed out the efforts of the National Salvation Revolution to bring about peace in Sudan and the endeavors of the command to promote the Armed Forces. His Excellency praised the brilliant successes achieved by our heroic forces on various battlefronts. He stressed the Sudanese Government's endeavors to establish a just and unconditional peace, and called on the rebel movement to lay down its arms and sit at the negotiating table.

His excellency read a decree from His Excellency Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, granting the Order of Duty to all the officers, NCO's, and men of the Ummat al-Amjad forces returning from Yei, and his contribution of 70,000 pounds to support the forces of the heroic Ummat al-Amjad.

The celebration was also addressed by Major General Nasr al-Din Sulayman, Equatoria military area commander, and Major General (Muhammad 'Abdullah Aweda), director of the Orientation and Morale Department.

## Military Source on Kurdufan, Equatoria Fighting

*EA1403210891 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Mar 91*

[Text] A military source at the General Command has declared that the Armed Forces are continuing their operations against the rebels in different operational areas. The source added that the al-Hajjana forces clashed with the rebels in two areas, (Ad Dulayb) and (Al Ramlah) in southern Kurdufan, the day before yesterday and seized camps there after inflicting heavy losses in lives and equipment.

The source added that, in a separate development, the Maridi forces attacked the outlaws yesterday and inflicted dozens of dead and hundreds of wounded on them.

## Bahrain

### Government Forms Civil Defense Council

*NC1103103191 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 11 Mar 91*

[Text] Manama, 11 Mar (WAKH)—Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah today issued a decree establishing a civil defense council under the chairmanship of Interior Minister Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah. According to the decree, the following have been appointed members of the council:

1. Yusuf Ahmad al-Shirawi, minister of development and industry and acting minister of state for cabinet affairs;
2. Jawad Salim al-'Urayyid, minister of health;
3. Muhammad Hasan Humaydan, minister of transportation and communication;
4. Tariq 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad, minister of information;
5. Shaykh Khalid Bin-'Abdallah Al Khalifah, minister of housing;
6. Majid Jawad al-Jishi, minister of public works, electricity, and water;
7. Habib Ahmad al-Qasim, minister of commerce and agriculture;
8. Colonel 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-Rashid Al Khalifah, director of the civil defense and fire-fighting department; and
9. Colonel Muhammad 'Ali Fadl al-Nu'aymi, staff officer at the Interior Ministry.

## Kuwait

### Council of Representatives To Meet This Week

*NC1603123491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] Kuwait, 16 March (MENA)—'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Masa'id, speaker of the Kuwaiti Council of Representatives, has said the Council will hold its first session after the liberation of Kuwait before the end of this week.

In a statement to the MENA correspondent in Kuwait, al-Masa'id said the Council will discuss the future of the national action in Kuwait in the coming phase and a number of programs aimed at restoring normal life to the country.

Kuwaiti deputies began arriving in the country this morning.

### Curfew Lifted During Month of Ramadan

*LD1703134491 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] The heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, has issued a decision lifting curfew throughout the month of Ramadan. In his capacity as governor general, Shaykh Sa'd imposed a curfew in Kuwait extending from 2200 to 0400 following the liberation of Kuwait.

### Prime Minister Assures Palestinians of Support

*LD1603183391 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Excerpts] His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister, has praised the marvelous role played by Saudi Arabia toward Kuwait and the Kuwaitis. In a statement to 'UKAZ published today, he expressed gratitude and thanked King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and his crown prince. [passage omitted]

The heir apparent pointed out that Kuwait will work with its Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] sisters toward confronting any future attempt to commit aggression and will adopt security arrangements, together with the GCC countries and some fraternal Arab and friendly countries, to establish security in the region and to draw up a security strategy so that what happened with the Iraqi regime will never be repeated.

His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah stressed that the agreement between the GCC countries, Egypt, and Syria is a good step toward security cooperation. He said that if any country considers it is in its interests to agree with these countries, then the matter will be studied to establish more comprehensive security arrangements in the region.

His highness stressed that Kuwait will not hesitate to give material and moral support to the Palestinian people and will not stop helping its brother Palestinians in the occupied territories. This stems from its commitment to its pan-Arab duties.

His highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah announced that the state is currently implementing the policy of reconstructing Kuwait in all fields after it was destroyed by the invading Iraqi forces. He said the government is doing its best to investigate the issue of compensating Kuwaiti citizens who were harmed by the invasion, by the Baghdad ruler's forces, and during the occupation period.

### Premier Thanks Iranian Envoy for Gulf Stance

*LD1703120191 Tehran IRNA in English 1024 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] Tehran, March 17, IRNA—Iran's Ambassador to Kuwait Hoseyn Sadeqi in a meeting with Sheikh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwaiti crown prince and prime minister in Kuwait City Saturday discussed bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest, a Foreign Ministry report said here Sunday.

Thanking the Iranian Muslim nation for sympathizing with the Kuwaiti people during seven months occupation of the country by Iraq, al-Sabah said, "We praise the Islamic Republic's stands over the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait which from the beginning were explicit, clear and wise."

Meanwhile, Sadeqi informed al-Sabah of Tehran's readiness to render services and technical assistance to Kuwait and to provide the Kuwait people with basic needs, food stuff and drinkable water.

### Minister Reviews Food Supplies, Elections

*LD1703141591 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] The Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Awadi, has stated that what has befallen Kuwait as a result of the Iraqi invasion was a devastation and that this devastation has disrupted the basic infrastructures of the country.

Speaking at a press conference he held in Kuwait today, Dr. al-'Awadi said that the rate of devastation in the electric power generation stations and distribution networks was over 70 percent. He added that one electric power station at al-Jawr area with a capacity of 1,200 megawatts was still intact. It will be put into operation next week within the framework of the plan to restore electricity to the whole of Kuwait, which is to take three weeks.

He added that there is no shortage of water resources in the country, but a problem lies in the inability to pump the water.

With regard to the shortage of food, he said that this was due to the fact that there was only one road, namely al-Khafji road, for bringing in provisions. He added, however, that following the opening of the al-Shu'aybah port this week, the problem would be alleviated.

He said that the banks in Kuwait will resume their activities by the end of this week.

He added that an amiri grant of 500 Kuwaiti dollars per citizen will be issued to Kuwaiti citizens who lived under the yoke of the Iraqi occupation.

Dr. al-'Awadi denied that Palestinians in Kuwait were being subjected to any maltreatment at all and that everyone, irrespective of nationality, will be brought to account for all anti-Kuwait acts he had committed, in accordance with the law.

In conclusion, Dr. al-'Awadi affirmed at his press conference that return of democratic life to the country and the operation of the Constitution are a foregone conclusion and that elections will be held when favorable conditions exist and democratic life begins.

### Ministry Asks Citizens Abroad To Delay Return

*LD1703141391 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] The Presidency of the Security Committee of the Kuwaiti Interior Ministry has asked Kuwaitis abroad not to call at the security departments to obtain entry permits.

A statement issued by the Presidency today says that the permits issued at present are confined to emergency and work groups that have been entrusted with the task of rebuilding Kuwait.

It announced that once the Kuwaiti authorities in Kuwait determine the date for reentry, it will be announced on television and radio networks as well as in the press.

The Presidency statement says that these instructions are issued to complete the arrangements taken to meet the needs of the country and the citizens who were in the homeland during the invasion and to honor their rights to services, and also not to disrupt the already laid plans.

### Committee Prepares To Receive POW's

*LD1503163791 London KUNA in Arabic 1515 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Kuwait, 15 Mar (KUNA)—The POW committee of the Kuwaiti solidarity committees today announced that it is prepared to receive returning POW's at the points where they are to be handed over.

In a statement handed to KUNA here, the committee urged citizens who own passenger buses and tents to register with one of the solidarity committees in al-Fuhayhil, Mushrif, Yarmuk, al-'Udayliyah, Kayfan, al-'Umariyah, and al-Sulaybikhat.

The committee aims to organize its contribution to the receiving of POW's and detainees. The committee calls on citizens to stick a white card on their chest to show solidarity with Kuwaiti POW's on the first and second days of Ramadan, and as an expression of the sentiments of fraternity and loyalty to the POW's.

### French Defense Minister Discusses Mine Clearing

*LD1603135591 Paris Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] Defense Minister Pierre Joxe met Amir al-Jabir in Kuwait City this morning. The role of French sappers in charge of clearing the mines on the beaches was mentioned at length. They may remain there for several months, and Pierre Joxe even told our reporter, Alain Meynarques, that reinforcements will be sent to assist them in their task.

[Begin Joxe recording] In accordance with the mission assigned to them, to clear several kilometers of beaches, I believe that it will be over in a few months. French sappers are here because everyone knows them. Everyone admires them because they have an excellent technique well-used both in training and in practice. To know the equipment one has to be able really to use it. You know that in civil defense the sappers are highly regarded in France. It is really the military engineers—by the way, it is the regiment of engineer paratroopers which was under General Roquejeoffre's command which is clearing the beach here at this very moment—who bring a high level of competence. To be able to carry out the planned program, that is several kilometers of beaches, I believe that we will transfer here a few more elements who are in Iraq with the Daguet division for the time being, and who might come here to reinforce their comrades. [end recording]

### U.S. Fact-Finding Delegation Arrives

*LD1503144791 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] A Kuwaiti plane arrived at Kuwait International Airport this morning carrying guests from the U.S. Senate, top businessmen, journalists and staff in the U.S. media who came to get acquainted with the extent of destruction and sabotage that the Iraqi authorities and forces deliberately carried out during their occupation of Kuwait from 2 August 1990 until the end of last month.

The flight, which has been named Freedom Flight, included U.S. Secretary of Commerce Robert Mosbacher, former Secretary of State Alexander Haig, as well as a number of former U.S. officials who contributed their opinions, which were broadcast by the media, in shaping U.S. public opinion in support of the Kuwaiti cause during the occupation crisis.

This flight was supervised and arranged by Kuwaiti Ambassador to Washington Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah, who accompanied them on this flight.

The passengers saw during their flight over Kuwait the fires in the oil wells in parts of Kuwait. They denounced this sabotage by the Iraqi forces and affirmed that they and the whole world would stand by the Kuwaiti people and contribute with all efforts to help put these fires under control, and contribute to the reconstruction of Kuwait.

During their visit to Kuwait, the participants in the Freedom Flight are expected to meet a number of high-ranking Kuwaiti officials and then tour the city of Kuwait in order to inspect the extent of destruction and sabotage.

### Ex-Assembly Member Calls for General Elections

*LD1403214891 London KUNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 14 Mar 91*

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] London, 14 March, (KUNA)—Mubarak al-Dawilah, former member of the National Assembly, has welcomed the postponement of the democracy conference scheduled to be held in London recently. In a statement distributed here today he said that the postponement "is a sound measure, which is in agreement with the views of the many sincere people in this homeland, and in agreement with what we had previously proposed: the need to liberate the homeland and return to it, and then follow this with any other steps." He confirmed in his statement the need to "form a popular government capable of realizing the future expectations of the Kuwaiti people, foremost the revival of the 1962 Constitution by holding general elections for the National Assembly." Al-Dawilah explained that "the critical circumstances the country is going through today call for such a measure, as the security situation is unstable and regional security arrangements need to be clarified." He urged that the priority in Kuwait should be the holding of general elections for the National Assembly, in accordance with the word and spirit of the 1962 Constitution, and expressed the hope that the idea of six months would be sufficient.

### Article Views Debate on Country's Future

*PM1503165691 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 13 Mar 91 p 1*

[Muhammad al-Rumayhi article: "National Dialogue"]

[Text] The discussion of Kuwait's future is a healthy one and a sign of strength. It is also an indication of the vitality of that great people, who deserve to gain freedom through their martyrs' blood, the sufferings of their sons and daughters, and their sacrifices.

The discussion of Kuwait's future is a natural continuation of the liberation war that our people—of all groups, both inside and abroad, including men, women, old people, and children—waged against a tyrannical occupier who represents all the values of repression, suppression, tyranny, treachery, and aggression. They achieved victory in accordance with the principles of our national life, heritage, and the bitter experience of occupation, which proved that it was these principles and commitment to them that paved the way to victory.

The first of these principles is that there is only one Kuwait, not two. The invasion did not discriminate between one Kuwaiti and another. It attacked the people just as it attacked the law. So the consensus to confront and resist it, together with the people's solid support for the law against it, were the first steps down the road to liberation and victory.

The second of these principles is the support for the law shown by by His Highness Prince Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, on the grounds that it is the roof that protects everyone and the authority to which all Kuwaitis turn. This rallying around the symbols of legitimacy has never been doubted, before, during, or after the invasion. The people's conference in Jeddah has emphasized this definite fact through representatives of all the popular groups of various inclinations. It was also expressed by the first elected National Assembly speaker, Mr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz Saqr, in his wide-ranging address to the conference on behalf of the participants. That was the second step down the road to liberation and victory.

The third of these principles is adherence to the 1962 Constitution, as mentioned in his highness the amir's address to the popular conference. It has been asserted by His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah on many occasions. The symbols of legitimacy asserted it during the occupation and continue to assert it after the liberation. The Constitution defines rights and duties and guarantees everyone's right to express, through elected institutions, their legitimate aspirations and views; to determine a proper future for their children, and to choose their legal government. That was the third step down the road to liberation and victory.

The fourth of these principles is everyone's agreement that the priority today is to rebuild the country and dress the wounds of our kinfolk who suffered torture and murder at the hands of the occupation. Providing the essentials for these people and trying to give them what they deserve is an urgent matter on which there are no disagreements. One of the essentials we must provide is security.

These principles, which rallied the entire world around us to launch the liberation war and achieve victory with us, are our road to the future and to the Kuwait of the future. Under their roof we can talk, agree, or disagree. But certainly we will not differ over them—and this grants us the immunity we need to build the fortress of real shura, consultation, democracy, and development.

## Oman

### Iran's Velayati Meets Sultan Qabus in Muscat

### Discuss Regional Cooperation

*LD1703114991 Tehran IRNA in English 1021 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] Tehran, March 17 IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati handed over a message from President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the latest developments in the Persian Gulf region to Omani Sultan Qabas Bin-Sa'id in Muscat Saturday.

The president in his message expressed pleasure over liberation of Kuwait and termination of the Persian Gulf war. President Rafsanjani further said Iran was ready to work towards achieving a security plan based on interests of the regional countries and their common historical, religious and economic aspects.

He also underscored the necessity of cooperation among all regional countries and rejected foreign interference in any regional security plan.

Sultan Qabus who heads the committee assigned by the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council to review measures for security of the region, said the council intends to create a collective cooperation system among these countries.

Velayati criticized statements by some heads of states describing them as signs of interference in affairs of the Pesian Gulf Region.

Sultan Qabus said that the council was principally relying on the Persian Gulf countries and added no particular country can assume the role of the guardian of the Persian Gulf and members of the council.

Sultan Qabus thanking President Rafsanjani for his message praised friendly Tehran-Muscat ties.

Velayati arrived in Muscat Saturday afternoon heading a ranking delegation.

### Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives

*LD1703224291 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2225 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Excerpt] Muscat, March 17 (SPA)—His Royal Highness Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Muscat this evening on a visit to the Sultanate of Oman. [passage omitted]

### Meets With Velayati

*LD1703230991 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal met in Muscat Sunday with Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They discussed the topic of pilgrimmage and bilateral relations in a positive framework. There has been a preliminary understanding between them. It was also agreed that the two sides would convey the results of these talks to their two governments, and they hoped that they would be able to issue a statement on bilateral relations within the next two days. [passage omited]

## Saudi Arabia

### King Criticizes Saddam in Ramadan Address

*LD1603194991 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic d1800 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Excerpts] On the occasion of the month of Ramadan, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, addressed his sons and brothers, citizens, those residing in the Kingdom, and the sons of the Islamic nation. His Excellency Information Minister Ali al-Sha'ir will have the honor of delivering the adress on behalf of the king.

[Begin al-Sha'ir recording] [passage omitted] On this occasion, which is dear to us all, I would like to express to you, brother compatriots, my deepest appreciation and gratitude for the high national spirit and genuine enthusiasm as well as the customary faithfulness you have displayed in the form of sacrifice and volunteering to serve in the jihad fields in defense of religion and the beloved homeland ever since the beginning of the painful events of the occupation of fraternal Kuwait. [passage omitted] Praise be to God who assisted us, together with the assistance of the brothers and friends, to accomplish what has been achieved. Praise be to God who helped us in reaching this great month when security has been established in our homeland and peace now prevails in our area.

Brothers, I think I do not have to mention or recall today all the continuous and gigantic efforts we made, in which most world leaders contributed, to establish peace and avoid all that had happened to both the people of Kuwait and the people of Iraq, and to what happened to the peoples of the Arabian Gulf states—wounds, pains, loss in life, and property—and the grave damages inflicted on the environment: to birds, fish, and animals. But the ruler of Iraq, who was blinded by his aggressive greed which left him unable to see the path of right, insisted that matters should proceed in the direction they did, resulting in catastrophe, defeat, and loss for him. In this address we would like genuinely to express our sympathy to the sons of the Iraqi people who have suffered a great deal as a result of the misbehavior of the Iraqi regime, hoping that Almighty God will lift this sadness this people are witnessing today so that they can continue their good and constructive march together with their brothers—the peoples of the Arabian Gulf states. [passage omitted] [end recording]

## Prince Khalid Returns From Egypt, Syria

*LD1503210791 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1856 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 15 Mar (SPA)—His Royal Highness Staff Lieutenant-General Khalid Bin Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, commander of the Coalition Forces, returned to Riyadh this evening from visits to the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Syrian Arab Republic. [passage omitted]

## Press Focuses on Ramadan, Iraq's Future

*LD1703145191 Riyadh SPA in English 1253 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Riyadh, March 17 (SPA)—Saudi newspapers today greeted the advent of Ramadan and urged Moslems to renew pledge for the Islamic solidarity as well as commented on serious aspects of post-war situation in the Arab Gulf region.

"As in every Moslem nation, Ramadan is scrupulously observed in Saudi Arabia, the holy land of all Moslems, the cradle of Islam. As every aspect of Saudi life is strictly governed by the sacred tenets of Islam and Prophet Muhammad's teachings, every Saudi Moslem eagerly waits for this month. His feelings are shared by Moslems of other nationalities looking to Saudi Arabia for spiritual guidance and inspiration," RIYADH DAILY said.

"As Moslems in Saudi Arabia observe Ramadan with fervor and faith, it is the duty of thousands of non-Moslems here to act in ways that do not dilute sanctity of the occasion," it added.

"As Ramadan set in, Moslems must set an example to people of other faiths. Through prayer expressing devotion to almighty Allah, they must prove that they have gained the spiritual strength to overwhelm all worldly challenges. This will ultimately lead to the supreme victory of Islam," RIYADH DAILY said.

"Ramadan is the month in which Moslems renew their pledge to submit themselves totally and unreservedly to the will of God. With wills strengthened by daylong abstinence and souls purified by nights spent in prayers, they turn to God in repentance of their lapses in the past and vow to order their future in such a way as to win his pleasure," the Jeddah-based ARAB NEWS said.

"And that will demand of us answers to a few uncomfortable questions: How do we explain the fact that while the entire world is moving toward a dawn when all borders will be removed, how is that we, in our world, are still driven by passions that have been dead and buried half a century ago? How is that whereever guns boom and innocent blood is spilled, whether in tribal massacres, factional killings, or communal holocausts, we are a party to all of them? How do we explain that an overwhelming majority of the world's hungry, sick, deprived and illiterate are our own, but the food, medicine and shelter that keep them alive come, barring a few honorable exceptions, from others?

"Now is the time to ask those questions and find the answers. If we do, or at least make a honest try, Allah, in his infinite mercy, may exclude us from those of whom the apostle will say O my Lord. Truly my people took the Holy Koran for just foolish nonsense," it added.

Under the title "Whither Iraq?" the Dammam-based AL-NADWAH said the Arab Gulf states, the Western world and the international community are all fully in favour of preserving the unity of Iraq, and are all doing their utmost to prevent anything that would compromise Iraq's independence or territorial sovereignty and integrity.

"In fact, Iraqi territory is liable to be carved up as a direct result of Saddam's insane decision to force Iraq to enter a losing war that all but destroyed Iraq's civilization and raison d'etre—to say nothing of inhumane coercion and terrorist acts resulting in wholesale bloodletting and torture of legions of innocents whose untold sufferings were deemed necessary by Saddam and his criminal henchmen to buttress their infamous regime indefinitely. All this has now led to a state of bitter and grievous helplessness that is rife in Baghdad and Iraq's other major cities almost without exception.

"Moreover, if Saddam (as is so obviously patent) has led Iraq right down the loathsome abyss of hapless servitude and harrowing despair, yet the last thing envisaged for Iraq by the law-abiding international community is for that most unfortunate country to be led, willy nilly, into a tragically catastrohic state of deadly internecine strife or civil war.

"The one and only solution to this seemingly insurmountable problem of problems, is for Saddam to relinquish power forthwith, and in so doing, to manumit the wretched Iraqis from submitting any further to the monstrous trials and tribulations they have had to go through for so long," it added.

Under the title "A Premature Step," AL-JAZIRAH Arabic newspaper said the five permanent members of the UN Security Council were in session yesterday to discuss adopting a resolution pertaining to establishing a permanent ceasefire in the Gulf region.

"The council's members also discussed the steps to be taken prior to the setting up of a token UN peacekeeping force in the Gulf area. Now, during these deliberations, news came in that Saddam Husayn was massing his defeated forces in a bid to threaten the unarmed Iraqi people—a people armed solely with their unshakable faith in their inalienable right to freedom, and in their untrammelled right to give full expression to their deep-seated hatred and utter contempt that so clearly coloured their absolute refusal to carry on with a ruling system that had only brought them and their country death and destruction, together with utter humiliation and downright disgrace.

"News sources also maintained that when opposition to the Iraqi dictator began to increase by leaps and bounds all over Iraq, Saddam then used dire threats against all Iraqis, for these had clearly shown that they vehemently wanted him to be no more.

"A permanent ceasefire can only be brought about if Iraq enjoys its freedom to the full. Saddam has shown that he cares nothing for this. That is why, so long as Saddam remains in power, then the invitation of a permanent ceasefire would be a premature step," AL-JAZIRAH said.

## Papers Assess Efforts To Oust Saddam

*LD1603142591 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0710 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[From the Press Review]

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 16 Mar (SPA)—In its editorial, AL-BILAD says that what is happening inside Iraq is the settling of a score by the brotherly Iraqi people for a series of excesses and violations committed by the Saddam Husayn regime against that people and for which it paid dearly with the blood of its sons and the wealth and future of its generations.

It points out that popular courts of justice have now been set up in all Iraqi cities to make the tyrant account for the years of oppression, destruction, and decline so that they can issue their verdict—which will be the worst end for the tyrant.

The daily considers that, now that divine justice has settled accounts in favor of Iran, with Saddam having given up all the achievements of eight years of war in a few moments, and now that he has sustained an abominable defeat in which he was expelled from Kuwait, only the Iraqi people are now left to settle accounts for the crimes committed against it and to bring the criminals to justice.

It adds that settling the score is not confined to Saddam alone but extends to all those who lured him and beautified the wrong path for him.

The daily reaffirms in its editorial that the years of harsh suffering experienced by the Iraqi people under the Saddam regime will not make do with retaliation against Saddam Husayn as a scapegoat, but will push it to purge Iraq of all the hypocritical pillars of the dictatorship to ensure that its future does not repeat the same experience and guards against a new tyrant seizing power. The overriding question is: After the victory, what about international legitimacy and the restoration of free, independent Kuwait? [passage omitted]

The daily says that the Arab countries that suffered the most because of the Iraqi aggression and Saddam's failed adventure, namely the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] and particularly Kuwait, must reexamine reality considering changes in attitudes which sided with injustice and kept silent about or contributed to its defense through the information media. This act was a breach of stability, a marginalization of Arab right and harmony, and a disavowal of the principles of dialogue among neighbors and brothers. [passage omitted]

As for 'UKAZ, it says: A few weeks ago, many people were wondering what would happen if, at the advent of Ramadan, the war to liberate Kuwait and remove the aggression was still continuing. It adds that victory, supported by Almighty God, was the best reply to the questions of those people. God has rendered His soldiers victorious, has done them proud, and has given the Islamic world a chance to receive the generous month after the fighting had stopped, the aggression collapsed, and the ravished land liberated. [passage omitted]

AL-YAWM talks about the popular revolution and its developments, which is currently taking place in Iraq against the tyrant Saddam Husayn, and reaffirms that Iraq's tyrant is facing a huge popular revolution which has begun to sweep through all Iraqi provinces, towns, and villages, while Saddam's tyrannical forces have begun to deal with it with their usual boundless terror and disdain for all values and principles. [passage omitted]

Under the title "Welcome, Generous Month", AL-JAZIRAH says in its editorial that, with God's will, the blessed month of Ramadan did not begin until Kuwait was liberated, danger was removed from the Kingdom's border, and the circle was tightened around Iraq's tyrant and his tyrannical regime. [passage omitted]

As for AL-NADWAH, it praises the Damascus Declaration and its significance in the achievement and consolidation of joint Arab action and cooperation. [passage omitted]

### Article Calls For 'Arafat's Removal From Office

*PM1303165691 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 6 Mar 91 p 3*

[Article by "political editor": "'Arafat's Removal an Arab and International Duty, Not Only a Palestinian Duty"]

[Excerpts] No two people in the world today disagree over Saddam Husayn's fate after his rout; the devastation he has inflicted on his country; and the crimes he has committed against the Iraqi people, the Kuwaiti people, the peoples of the region, and against mankind and all its interests, values, charters, and principles.

The Iraqi people will not tolerate that ruler for long. They will get rid of him sooner or later.

The world will not tolerate that criminal and his evil regime. He will be arrested and handed over to the courts for them to decide the appropriate punishment for him.

But the question now concerns the fate of the other leaders, the partners in the conspiracy. It was evidently and irrefutably proved to the world as a whole that they participated in these crimes through planning, implementation, promotion, and assistance, within a system of allocation of roles.

Specifically, there are four parties apart from the Baghdad regime that are proven to have taken part in these crimes. These are the Jordanian, Palestinian, Sudanese, and Yemeni leaderships. And although the fate of these states' governments is almost the same, Yasir 'Arafat stands out among them and is expected to be the first to go and the first to pay the price for his crimes alongside Saddam Husayn. The reasons are numerous: first, the futility and gravity of Yasir 'Arafat's role. In fact, it is difficult to list that man's crimes alongside Saddam. They are limitless. [passage omitted]

Second, Yasir 'Arafat's crimes differ in many respects from those committed by the other rulers who joined Saddam's conspiracy: Although the aim of their involvement in the conspiracy was personal, some of these conspirators might seek an excuse or justification and say that they were seeking spoils from Saddam for their people or a bribe that would benefit the whole state. But that does not at all apply to 'Arafat, who helps himself to the aid supplied to the PLO and the Palestinians, thus increasing his own wealth and that of those around him.

More importantly, 'Arafat's crimes have jeopardized his country's cause— and he was well aware of that beforehand.

This, because when the Yemeni, Jordanian, or Sudanese regime supports the aggression and participates in it, it harms its own country and its Arab and international relations, deprives it of its credibility before the world, and exposes it to international punishments. But when it comes to 'Arafat, it is a different matter. The losses and results are worse. In fact they start from 'Arafat's statements supporting the aggression, the annexation, the historic rights, and so on. This, because Yasir 'Arafat is supposed to be responsible for the Palestinian people's cause. And the logic of this just cause is based on convincing the world that the Palestinians have a right to their homeland and against the Israeli hegemony and occupation. It is also based on the fact that territories cannot be occupied or annexed as Israel did, and peoples' rights cannot be violated on any historical pretexts. So 'Arafat destroyed the logic and justness of his country's cause before the world the moment he supported the logic of the Iraqi aggression.

Furthermore, Arab efforts over 20 years to produce a legitimate, internationally acceptable representative of the Palestinian people to defend that just cause, adhere to international values, and shoulder the responsibility have resulted in the PLO's identification as that representative. But now 'Arafat has destroyed the Arab efforts and portrayed the PLO as a supporter of aggression, a factor of destruction and instability, and as terrorist groups supporting the Iraqi occupation by helping its terror throughout the world and by openly threatening to use the weapon of terrorism.

In view of these heavy losses inflicted on the Palestinian cause, it is in the Palestinian people's interests to remove 'Arafat and his supporters completely from the arena of that cause.

Third, 'Arafat's punishment is an Arab and international duty to safeguard the Palestinian people's cause. This, because while the fate of any of the Arab regimes that supported the conspiracy—whether in Sanaa, Amman, or Khartoum—is in its people's hands, as the people will not keep silent about that conspiracy and the disasters it has caused. 'Arafat's position is different because the PLO derives its international legitimacy, its status as representative of the Palestinian people and their cause, and its position as a major partner in all plans and attempts to secure a peaceful solution to the crisis from the whole world whole and from its support for and recognition of it.

So if the present clique's leadership of that organization has deprived it of most of the international support as a result of its own backing for the Iraqi aggression, the desire to preserve the PLO's Arab and international status requires that it remove that clique. If this does not happen, the whole world will ignore the PLO aside and stop dealing with that clique of followers.

For all these reasons, it is incumbent on the Palestinian people to remove 'Arafat today, rather than tomorrow, lest the Palestinian cause pay a heavy price for his continued presence, especially since he has inflicted heavy losses on it as a result of his policies in support of the Iraqi aggression.

### Paper on 'Peace and Freedom' for Palestinians

*LD1403142791 Riyadh SPA in English 1233 GMT 14 Mar 91*

[Text] Riyadh, March 14 (SPA)—A Saudi English newspaper today affirmed that Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Shamir must utilize proposals of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker as a golden opportunity for peace as they reflect America's sincere desire to usher in an era of lasting peace in the region. "Chasing this goal, Baker is now in the Middle East. In Tel Aviv, he has met Israeli leaders to propose his plan. Palestinian leaders have also held ground-breaking talks with him. Though it is too early to predict the future course of events, there is reason for hope in the Arab world as the United States is one country that can force the Israelis to see reason," said RIYADH DAILY.

It added that the Arabs will accept no compromises short of full liberty for the Palestinians. "Absolute freedom for them will mean a peace the region has not witnessed in recent decades. Secretary Baker's plan, accepted by the Arab allies, entails trading land for peace. This is the maximum the Arabs can give to the Israelis in return for the freedom of the Palestinians," RIYADH DAILY said.

"One by one, the problems of the Middle East are being solved. Lebanon has entered the threshold of peace. A vanquished Iraq can no longer be a threat. Only Palestine remains. Peace and freedom for the Palestinians will take the people of the region on a new path of prosperity," it added.

## Yemen

### Salih Hails Advent of Political Pluralism

*EA1703212291 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Report on President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's address on the advent of Ramadan]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said that the fruits of this tremendous grace [unity] appeared at the moment of its birth, and it has been crowned by the fulfillment of democracy and the lifting of barriers against political and party pluralism and enhanced by the force of the unity emanating from the civilization, considering that unity is the only national and civilized choice for progress under the Yemen Republic's flag.

He stressed adherence to this straight path as well as to freedom of opinion and the establishment of political pluralism, which will enhance the homeland's and the revolution's victories by opening the door to the use of legal means to express the people's opinions. [Passage indistinct] as an affirmation of united Yemen's transcending the dictatorial means [words indistinct] which are the (?hallmarks) in the life of the exploited and enslaved nations that suffer under the yoke of totalitarian regimes that follow foreign orders, a thing that the Yemeni revolution has rejected since its glorious dawn and since our people removed from their necks the (?corruption) of the priestly regimes and the dictatorship of obnoxious colonialism.

### Al-Iryani on Security; Bush Palestinian Comments

*EA1603103691 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Mar 91*

[Text] Brother Dr. 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, the foreign minister, has affirmed that the Yemeni Republic's efforts have been and will remain undeviatingly aimed at bringing about Arab unity and solving Arab problems within an Arab framework. In a press statement in the latest issue of the Sanaa weekly AL-WAHDAH, he charged the Security Council, particularly its five permanent members, with the responsibility for solving the Palestinian problem, implementing UN Security Council Resolutions Nos. 242 and 338 on the Palestinian issue and the Zionist-Arab dispute and calling on the United Nations to force the Zionist entity to obey international law, which this entity still rejects while continuing to play dirty tricks in its dealings with those resolutions. Dr. al-Iryani also stressed that our country's position on solutions, laid down by international legislation, to issues of the region was clear and firm, namely that no selectivity be applied to such solutions.

Referring to the security arrangements being made in the region by means of various moves, beginning with the promulgation of the Damascus statement on the position of the eight states that met in Damascus, issued the day after the Gulf war ended, he said every state or group of states was entitled to express views on guaranteeing the region's security and safety.

What was more important, however, was that such views should be unequivocally based on what would preserve the security, safety, and interests of all the states of the region on the basis of their resources and as an expression of the wishes of their citizens. The brother foreign minister emphasized that all security arrangements must emanate from the will of the peoples themselves. Meanwhile, all views potentially productive of instability must also be scrutinized, because everyone realized and admitted that reliance on the military aspect could not bring about the region's security and safety.

Referring to the U.S. position recently declared by President George Bush on the Palestinian issue and ways of solving it, Dr. al-Iryani explained that what the U.S. President said actually meant that the United States is committed to the international legislation approved by the Security Council, to solving the Middle East issue and to the Palestinian people's full exercise of their legitimate rights. This was what the UN Security Council and General Assembly had been stressing for more than 20 years. He said that what was new in the recent U.S. submission was the administration's frank admission that it was of the opinion that there could be no solution other than implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, to which several previous U.S. administrations had deliberately avoided committing themselves. He said the PLO had welcomed the recent U.S. statements.

### YSP Central Committee on Referendum, Gulf

*EA1003125891 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 7 Mar 91*

[Text] The Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee has expressed its great appreciation for the preparatory work for the popular referendum on the Yemeni Republic's Constitution. In its statement on the work of its 24th ordinary session, which concluded at noon today, under the chairmanship of brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, the Central Committee pointed out that this referendum expresses a new feature of democratic practice which is linked with the establishment of the Yemeni Republic and which the Constitution itself guarantees. It called on the masses of citizens to register at the referendum centers in order to exercise their constitutional right and to say yes to the Constitution, considering that it is the common denominator of all groups and strata in society.

The Central Committee also called on all political parties and organizations and all the masses of the people to try, through the referendum on the Constitution, to reinforce the edifice of the young Yemeni Republic and strengthen it, and entrench and deepen national unity, and to confront any attempts aimed at weakening the internal front.

The Central Committee hailed the 12th anniversary of the YSP's establishment. It also hailed the 8 March anniversary of International Women's Day. It confirmed the YPS's continued support for the struggle of Yemeni women to reinforce their status and role in society.

In its statement, the Central Committee declared its support for the government's stand on the Gulf crisis by praising the Yemeni stands and initiatives which strove to solve the region's problems by peaceful means and within the framework of the brotherly cooperation between its peoples and governments. It also reaffirmed the adoption of peaceful and democratic dialogue, considering that they are the ideal and most successful way to confront existing problems.

It called on Arab governments and peoples and all generous forces to consider future challenges and prepare the Arab and Islamic nation to confront them in a manner that reinforces and unifies their national, pan-Arab, and Islamic entity, particularly as the world is now heading toward large units and blocs.

The Central Committee renewed the YSP's support for the valiant Palestinian uprising, calling on the Arab and Islamic states to carry out their responsibilities to support it and provide factors for its continuance. It also called on the international community to support Palestinian rights and to exert utmost efforts to enable the Palestinian Arab people to determine their destiny and set up their independent national state on their Palestinian national soil under the leadership of the PLO—the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people.

The YSP Central Committee cautioned against the dangers of the imperialist circles' military inclination, which casts a disturbing shadow on the march toward establishing a new international order and imposes a new hegemony whose savage methods and inhuman policies are inspired by the colonialist past, thereby blocking the way to fulfilling the human dream of the world's peoples for establishing a new international order based on maintaining peace and guaranteeing justice, freedom, and equal relations between the states of the world.

The YSP Central Committee also approved the submission of the party's draft political program and draft statute for discussion with YSP members, parties and organizations of the Yemeni democratic national movement, militant personalities, and masses of the Yemeni people, as part of the preparation for the convening of the Fourth YSP Congress, which is to meet in the second half of this year.

## Saddam Addresses Nation, Calls For Reform

*NC1603155891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1503 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn, date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Great Iraqi people in our beloved country, benevolent faithful in our glorious nation: When the aggression against our country stopped, you were expecting me, as has been the practice, to speak to you without delay so we could evaluate what has happened and analyze the experience to learn its lessons. My colleagues in the leadership and I preferred, however, to postpone speaking until tempers had cooled, so that the citizens and the children of the nation could take an objective and quiet approach to what is being said, and so that the real aims of the speech might be understood. In addition, painful recent events in the country have kept me from talking to you in due course.

As soon as the aggression stopped, and while the country from north to south and east to west was being targeted for aggression by 30 nations, and while our cities and villages were bleeding from the brutal aggression against all Iraq, its children, and the Iraqis, and against their property and what they have built over decades with their efforts, sweat, and innovation—at that very time, herds of rancorous traitors, falsely bearing Iraqi identity, infiltrated from inside and outside the country to spread devastation, terror, sabotage, and looting in a number of Iraq's southern cities and villages, helped by mobs who have strayed from the right path in al-Basrah, al-'Imarah, al-Nasiriyah, Karbala', al-Najaf, and al-Hallah.

Those renegade traitors began to attack some Army units and barracks that were remote and withdrawing under the fire of the aggression. They began to capture weapons and equipment, to burn the people's property, to loot government offices, schools, hospitals, and houses, and to dishonor women. They even burnt civil registration files and records of property ownership, marriages, and inheritance at the state's departments. By means of cowardly treachery, they began to kill some of the state and party officials, officers, and citizens in those cities.

Our country, which was subjected to the imperialist-Atlantic-Zionist aggression, was subjected to another invasion, similar to Hulegu's invasion of Baghdad in 1258. O dear Iraqis, despite the hard circumstances that resulted from the invasion of the 30 states, and as you expect us to do and as we always expect you to do what you actually did with courage, belief, and sacrifice, we had to rise with strong will and firm resolve to protect Iraq from this treacherous sedition and to protect the sons of Iraq from the evil of the cliques of hatred and rancor, and to return to Iraq and the Iraqis security, order, reassurance, and the bright face of faith and civilization.

We and you feel bitter about what has recently happened. We did not expect it. We did not expect neighbors, with whom we had sincerely determined to establish peace, to turn the pages of the past, and to open a new page of good neighborliness, cooperation, and [word indistinct]; we did not expect these people to turn their territories into a springboard for such harm and treachery against Iraq, at a time when Iraq had valiantly and courageously defended principles and goals, which we believed, as we followed their public slogans, were common to both us.

The enemies have portrayed what has happened as a popular uprising against the regime and a serious attempt to change it. With regard to this, I say: Any attempt of whatever nature to change the system of government in any country during war with foreign forces cannot, as far as the substance and result are concerned, be a nationalist attempt. Any change of a nationalist nature and goals can be achieved only in circumstances in which the sons of the homeland are capable of expressing their will, divorced from the (?threat) of the foreigner's spears, policies, and funds.

However, those who claim the desire to change, at a time when a portion of the bowels of Iraq is still touching the ground as a result of the enemy's cruel strikes on the part of the 30 states coalition, while the threat to continue the aggression still exists, while there are still foreign forces present in part of our territories, while our country is still besieged, and while the country's army and people are still suffering from the effects of the aggression—they are not nationalists, but agents of the foreigners, who are incited by treason, rancor, selfishness, and riffraff at the expense of the interests of the people, the country, and the pride and honor of the country. The actions that these criminals and traitors have carried out expose their true nature. Does someone who aspires to change for the better in an honorable and capable manner, as they claim, resort to burning, destruction, plundering, and disgraceful action, as they have done? We carried out the change and the revolution on 17 and 30 July 1968. The people know how we dealt with our own people and with the state's properties and institutions. This is the difference between someone who really aspires for change for the better based on the principles and higher values of patriotism and the rancorous agents.

We must imagine the gloomy destiny of our country and people had these rancorous criminals been able, God forbid, to control the country's destiny, and had people who behave and have the same character as these criminals, (?taken over) beautiful and dear Baghdad.

Citizens in the towns and villages that have been subjected to these evil actions are the best judges of these persons. They have seen these persons' actions and heard their statements. These traitors have raised slogans advocating sectarianism and the division of the country. Is it nationalism and democracy for Iraq to be divided into communities and nationalities that fight each other over posts and prominent positions in the state? Is it nationalism and democracy for one Iraq to be turned into fragments and groups, as in Lebanon?

Those who raised the slogans of sedition, and who came from outside the country and were brought up and trained by those who sponsored them there, are not from the true Iraq nor do they represent Iraq's true nationalist and pan-Arab principles and goals.

Iraq has never been and never will be a farm belonging to a certain sect or faction, thus making sectarian rivalry possible, or divisive slogans to be raised among the sons of the same country. Historically, Iraq has a diversified structure, and this structure has enriched the cultural heritage and the civilization of its sons, who are united in their loyalty to the homeland. It has also been a source of pride to them.

The transformation of this diversity, which is rich in historical and civilized aspects, into division and a political situation that leads to the fragmentation of Iraq is a betrayal of the homeland and of the people, as well as the destruction of the homeland and the people. It would be like entering the dark maze that Lebanon has entered, God forbid, if not worse; the dark maze that Lebanon has been experiencing over the past 15 years in terms of destruction. Every wise and sincere person in Lebanon is now seeking salvation from that tribulation. The path these criminals and these traitors are urging is the door through which the foreigner will enter to interfere with Iraq and control it, and wipe out its aspirations for loftiness and prosperity that safeguard its honor and its honorable men, as well as its faith and the faithful.

I say this with all frankness: Has this regime, the regime of the July Revolution, which has served Iraq and worked to build it and to make it immune in pride and faith from its northernmost part to its southernmost part and from its easternmost part to its westernmost part, been a regime that ever belonged to only one sect or to one of its many diversified communities?

Were Saddam Husayn and his comrades who assumed responsibility the representatives of one sect against another, or one group against another so that the hateful sectarian slogans could be raised against the regime? Iraqis who have clear consciences and zeal know the answers to these questions. They know that we have worked for construction, progress, and prosperity all over Iraq, and that we have sought to serve all the sons of Iraq and to achieve pride and dignity for all of them. So, what is the objective of these suspect slogans that are exported to us from outside the country other than to destroy Iraq, divide it, and turn it into another Lebanon so external forces can wreak havoc in it? Iraq's great people reject this subversive and antinational approach, and they have always rejected it.

In spite of the difficult circumstances the country has experienced following the aggression, and in spite of the losses the Army has sustained and the martyrs it has offered, the good ones of our people, in the heroic Armed Forces, and in the public security and police departments have succeeded in a matter of days and under direct supervision of the command members, after seeking God's help in wiping out this odious sedition, in dealing a faithful and capable blow to the renegade traitors who had come from across the borders. Some of them were wiped out. The rest fled and returned back from where they came. This is further strong and tangible proof of the true essence of great Iraq.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Like froth cast out; while that which is for the good of mankind remains on the earth. Thus doth God set forth parables. [Koranic verses]

Dear Iraqis: At the same time as herds of sedition came from across the border to a number of our cities in the south, armed elements came from the same place to a number of northern cities and towns. Just as the rancorous elements raised slogans of sectarian division in southern cities, the elements that entered northern cities raised slogans of national division and committed similar acts of terror, sabotage, revenge, killing, pillage, and arson to promote the same failed purpose. It is now quite obvious that the plan of infiltrating some southern and northern regions originated in the same place and had the same aims of destroying and carving up Iraq and spreading chaos, destruction, and devastation and subjugating it to the will of the foreigner. May their actions be cursed.

Just as we have said that the actions in the south could not have been prompted by patriotic aims, what happened in the north runs counter to patriotism and is an indication of a treacherous, vengeful, and selfish and rancorous aim directed at the heart of Iraq's national values and unity.

O noble Iraqis, in all areas of the homeland, those who have infiltrated from outside the border and did what they did in Iraqi Kurdistan are trying to portray their treacherous acts as a service to Iraqi Kurds. I remind you all, however, and I remind the Kurds in the north of our beloved Iraq in particular, of the experience of the past 30 years. I remind you also that every Kurdish movement that was linked to the foreigner or relied on him politically, militarily, or materially brought only loss and destruction to our Kurdish people. All those movements ended in failure when the political stances in the region changed. Foreign powers, both those indigenous to our region and those from outside, exploited these people as a political card to play to achieve well-known political objectives. When the need for those cards ended, they cast them in the dustbin. All this happened at the expense of the Kurdish people's suffering, their loss of life and possessions, and the damage caused to them and the delay in their development, progress, and construction.

This was the outcome of Mustafa al-Barzani's adventure from 1970-1975. Those who are now carrying out acts of sabotage and division in the north are playing the same game, perpetrating the same grievous error, and, indeed, perpetrating the same treason with the same players, although some of faces and names have changed.

If they persist in this game, their fate, God willing, will inevitably be the same as the fate of those who came before them.

Our genuine Kurdish people must recall the basic facts of the situation. What the renegade and adventurous traitors are calling for—as well as the slogans they raise—will never be achieved for several reasons, among which is that the Kurds do not exist only in Iraq. They exist, in larger numbers, in Turkey and Iran. They also exist in Syria and the USSR. Eventually, these states cannot allow the achievement of the calls that are being raised. The objective of these calls is to harm and destroy Iraq.

The covetous foreign forces are interested in disobedience and rebellion only to weaken Iraq and its Armed Forces to serve their own objectives and to serve Israel. The Kurds' rights, interests, pride, security, and prosperity, however, cannot be achieved through being agents of the foreigner or by relying on his help or false promises. They can only be achieved in Iraq, and through bolstering unity, cohesion, brotherhood, and tolerance among its sons. They can be achieved through sincerity and not through treason. They can only be achieved under the umbrella of a free, independent, proud, strong, prosperous, and united Iraq, just as this was achieved in the March 1970 statement, and in the autonomous rule in 1974. This cannot be achieved while the enemies are trying to weaken Iraq, to undermine it, and to divide it. This is the lesson of the recent past that we have experienced and dealt with in all its good and bad details.

In the name of the Iraqis—Arabs and Kurds—and in the name of the leadership, we warn these adventurers against their disgraceful behavior and tell them: Have no illusions. For all the casualties and sacrifices and losses Iraq has had to take as a result of the aggression and the perfidy of the treacherous people, who had preceded them to treachery, Iraq will continue to exist, God willing, strong and powerful. God willing and through the concerted efforts of loyal Iraqis, Iraq will be able to remedy all the effects of the aggression and to deal appropriately with those who have exploited the country's tragedy to achieve their evil and (?malevolent) ambitions.

My confidence in the sons of our Kurdish people is great and will not be shaken. It will not be shaken by the treason of the traitors. The Kurds in Iraq are genuine Iraqis who have proven their love for their country and their faith in its unity. They have been honed by bitter experiences and they cannot be deceived by those agents and opportunists who imagine that they can, by their antinationalist and cheap methods, achieve now what they could not achieve in the past.

O honorable Iraqis: At a time when we are experiencing difficult circumstances and the disgraceful actions to which we have already referred, some of those people of bad mettle or weak mentality are trying to spread actions that have been committed by limited groups of evil traitors in one town, village, or another, to the people of other towns or villages, so as to give them the same character as those groups. They are trying to generalize this character to include the followers of one religion, community, nationalism or another, who inhabit these towns or villages.

This method is a great mistake that knowledgeable, intelligent, and honorable Iraqis ought not to make. The evil acts that took place are alien to the ethics and positive characteristics of Iraqis. If some individuals here and there collaborated with the foreigners, chose treachery and hostility, and participated in evil and treasonous acts, they remain individuals, isolated from the honorable sons of their cities and villages. They also remain isolated from the group to which they belong. We must characterize these individuals and mete out to them the punishment they deserve. We should not generalize their qualities and evil acts, because if we make this mistake, God forbid, we will fall into the trap set for us by the foreigners—a trap that essentially aims at creating hatred, rancor, and divisions among the sons of dear Iraq.

With God's help, we have crushed the sedition in the cities of the south, and we are able, through the determination of zealous people and the cooperation of the virtuous and sincere people throughout Iraq, to uproot the remaining treason and sabotage. We must foil the designs of the foreigners and the traitors; to win over our people, of whom we are part, as we always have; and to make them happy and more proud.

This principled, national, and honorable policy, however, should not prevent us from analyzing and diagnosing the bad phenomena, identifying their sources and positions, making an in-depth study of their causes, and tracing the roots of bad education and deviation. This helps us uproot these phenomena and free the country of them. We are determined to do this, God willing. We will never hesitate to inform our people frankly of all the facts, even those bitter, painful ones that are not in harmony with the Iraqis' characteristics and major qualities.

All Iraqis who are loyal to their homeland, who have faith in its unity, who are concerned about its reputation, and who understand the gravity of these disgraceful manifestations that have harmed their country's reputation should cooperate in the important national task to seek what is right to save noble Iraq from these evil and sick manifestations and to eradicate the causes that nurture them.

Glorious Iraqis everywhere in beloved Iraq, we in Iraq all feel that we are entering a new stage of our national life. It is a difficult stage, full of bitterness, and it calls for considerable sacrifices and heavy costs. My comrades and I in the command are nonetheless confident that the great Iraqi people—a people whose history dates back 6,000 years—are capable of overcoming the tribulation and are capable of opening new vistas toward a prosperous future.

Iraq's potentials are huge and the Iraqis' capabilities are endless when they bare their arms and sharpen their wits to tackle reconstruction and development. We should start this immediately in every part of Iraq, in every city and in every village, and in every walk of life.

We must remember that Iraq was, prior to the revolution of 17-30 July 1968 and until 1978-79, a poor and backward country. The progress achieved in Iraq was accomplished under the auspices of the revolution, its slogans, objectives, and national programs. As long as the revolution's noble and faithful principles and policies persist, Iraq will remain proud and dignified. As long as the patriotic spirit is strong, we will be able to compensate what can be compensated for in terms of our sacrifices and losses and restore the structure to what it should be—noble and prosperous to bear witness to the qualities of the noble and great Iraqi people.

Brothers, as we embark on reconstruction, this new stage must be characterized by new foundations in our national political life and in other aspects of our life. We had been preparing since 1979 to embark on a new political stage. However, the circumstances of external aggression against our country in 1980, which lasted for a very long period, prevented us from starting to search and work to set up the new political structures and frameworks necessary for that stage and for the requirements of progress. After that aggression against our country ended, we immediately embarked on reconstruction and establishing the foundations of peace. At that time, when we were occupied by major pan-Arab national concerns in accordance with their priority, we discussed within the leadership what we should do in that sphere.

In 1990, we planned for a new phase of our political life, envisioning new institutions and new formulas of national action, fundamentally based on party pluralism with a clear framework of national unity and national responsibility. We announced an initial plan for a new constitution for the country founded on these bases, and we presented it for debate. The plan was for us to complete a debate of the draft constitution in the concerned state centers in the fall, put it to a referendum, and create new institutions emanating from it. The events of August and subsequent events stood in the way, however.

Dear Iraqis: The time has come to begin building the pillars of the new phase, despite the difficulties we are experiencing. We are confident that genuine Iraqis who are dedicated to their homeland, who are concerned for its independence and pride and role, and who are anxious to build it and bring about its affluence, will find in the institutions and formulas of this new phase and the channels of political action and expression that it will provide in the form of parties, societies, and press, a free and constructive scope for contributing to all that should bring about the pride of Iraq and the Iraqis, and meet their interests and security and stability.

Our decision as a leadership to build the democratic society based on constitution, law, institutions, and pluralism, now, just as we were determined to do in 1990, is an irrevocable and final decision. We believe that this approach, based on pluralism and the participation of all the good nationalists in political life, will allow the people and the country to achieve their aspirations. It is also the same approach that secures responsible freedom for all Iraqis, just as it secures strength, pride, and capability for Iraq.

I call on those sincere Iraqis who are concerned about their country and about its great role, and for whom the picture might not be clear and consequently have fallen under the influence of tendentious individuals or the influence of the foreign propaganda campaign, not to make hasty judgments or adopt hasty positions, but to cooperate with the leadership in its new comprehensive program, which we will unhesitatingly implement during this stage. We have sufficient determination, confidence, faith, and capability, supported by God's help, to make the details of this program a reality as soon as possible, God willing. The first step we are taking toward the building of the new phase is to appoint a new government. The government will take upon its shoulder, as mission number one, rebuilding and reconstruction, provision of basic services to the people, following—in cooperation with and under the supervision of the leadership—its tasks of [word indistinct] completing the discussion and (?approval) of the draft constitution, and building the institutions stemming from it.

O glorious Iraqis, o sons of the glorious Arab nation: Had it not been for the latest painful events that took place in Iraq and the necessity of their urgent solution, our speech, hopefully, would have centered on the battle that we waged against the enemies of God in the Atlantic alliance under the leadership of America and their allies and followers. We would have studied the causes and proceedings of the battle, and the conclusions and lessons which we may draw and learn.

This battle and its lessons will remain a great source of experience and experiment, and a lesson in faith and action. It must be discussed from all its aspects in the upcoming phase. Under these circumstances—with which you are familiar—I would like to lay emphasis on some basic facts that enemy media and officials in the countries that participated in the military aggression against Iraq are trying to conceal and twist.

Iraq was and will continue to be a cornerstone in the maintenance of security and stability in the region. Iraq worked more than any other country in the region to protect the region's security and stability. It made the highest sacrifices from the blood and wealth of its people to protect the region from the grave dangers to which it was subjected. Iraq is the country that called on the Arab regimes to practice sincerely the policy of mutual respect, noninterference in internal affairs, and refrainment from using force in solving problems. This was as far back as February 1980. Moreover, Iraq is the country that proposed the signing of agreements to ensure observance of these principles, and it did sign such agreements with a number of countries.

Iraq is the one that called for and emphasized the importance of respecting the Arab League charter, and it was also Iraq that called for promoting cooperation in the economic and cultural fields, as well as in all other fields, among Arab countries to establish a cohesive and strong Arab society.

All the costly sacrifices that Iraq made and all the responsible and pan-Arab slogans it raised, and the constructive objectives it upheld to promote Arab relations to such a level that could enhance the virtues and good qualities of our nation, have been countered, however, by some countries in the region with conspiracies, ingratitude, treachery, and sick suspicions. The evil foreign countries that seek to control the region and its resources have found in what Iraq is calling and working for—in terms of a faithful and responsible pan-Arab course—something that deprives them of the opportunity to attain their objectives and designs in keeping the region weak. Thus, it would be easy to control and plunder its resources.

A large-scale tendentious campaign began that depicted our faithful and responsible pan-Arab course as a threat to the region and as an inclination toward adventure and expansion. This is what Egypt suffered during the era of late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir. The forces of aggression joined hands at the time and damaged the Nasirist model and the slogans of freedom, Arabism, and progress that he had upheld. Following his death, the renegade forces assumed power and transformed Egypt from a bastion of freedom, prosperity, and pan-Arab action into a satellite state and a farm in which the corrupt, exploiters, charlatans, speculators, and cheap peddlers wreaked havoc when it left its doors open and unguarded.

Iraq was subjected to the same slander and attempts to distort the facts that Egypt had been subjected to, but on a more comprehensive scale and in a more ferocious and vicious manner. The campaign against Iraq was intensified after the war between us and Iran stopped. It continued and escalated to higher degrees in 1990. The major Western countries and the corrupt and agent regimes in the region participated directly and indirectly in it. Iraq was forced to respond. What happened in August and afterward was essentially a defensive action that aimed to defend Iraq's achievements and the nation's values, and to protect the just balance of concepts and action that Iraq had established. Throughout that period, we emphasized the need to attain a comprehensive, just, and balanced settlement of all the region's issues. On 12 August 1990, we announced our initiative which called for respect for international legitimacy on the basis of a single standard and not on the basis of double ones. We showed responsiveness to all the positive ideas and proposals that were presented during that period by the personalities and parties which sincerely wished to find balanced and reasonable solutions to the region's issues.

In line with this policy, we received a large number of envoys and political personalities who had come from East and West and other parts of the world. We stressed the need to reach a comprehensive solution on the basis of a single standard. The Palestinian issue was at the forefront of the issues that we emphasized must be resolved. This issue, because of the neglect shown to finding a correct solution, has been and remains the core of conflict, instability, and lack of security in the region. This happened because of the neglect shown to it and to the need to find a correct solution to it.

But it was clear that foreign powers would not brook the yearning of the Arabs for such aims, and that whoever entertained such ambition was bound to pay the price of his adherence to his principles, honorable stand, and faith in the pride of his people and his nation and their right to a free and dignified life. The price Iraq has paid is commensurate with the hope the people held out for it and its right to faith, dignity, sovereignty, pride, and the ever-open window of hope—without allowing any evil, treacherous, or tyrannic person to slam it shut.

The enemies who ganged up on Iraq are laboring under the illusion that they will be able to instill frustration in its great people by pointing to the material damage they caused Iraq. We know the extent of the damage we have sustained, and the sacrifices we have made, but our dear people know that they have not paid a disproportionately high price for their freedom. Nor will they allow themselves to fall prey to frustration as is desired by the enemies. Our people know that this is the aim envisaged in the plot of aggression by 30 nations. The genuine people who believe in an ancient civilization, and who are attached to the depth of all the great principles in which a whole nation believes, are able to make good their material losses and reconstruct the country if they stick to a spirit of faith and national and pan-Arab pride and maintain their self-confidence and their future. This is what we are determined to achieve, God willing.

We stress here that Iraq, despite all the losses it suffered, the sacrifices it made, and the dangers and blockade now surrounding it meant to harm its dignity, independent decisionmaking, and principled and national values, will remain brave, strong, faithful, and able to give and create under all circumstances. Iraq will continue to be the cornerstone in maintaining the security and stability that safeguard the rights and human principles in the region. Without strong, modern Iraq, unrest would prevail and chaos spread throughout the region. The dreamers will pay a heavy cost for their illusion and miscalculations about Iraq's standing and role.

As it has always been, Iraq is ready, with faith and confidence, for serious and honest adherence to relations of good neighborliness and mutual respect among the states of the region. It is ready for serious and honest work for peace, security, and stability in the entire region, and for finding a just, fair, and genuine solution to the Palestine question—a solution that meets the hopes and attains the inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people as reflected and underscored by the institutions and legitimate national leadership of the Palestinian people: The PLO and president of the state of Palestine Yasir 'Arafat. These rights are daily underscored, through jihad, by the Palestinian Arab people's valiant intifadah, which has been going on for four years. Any solutions that harm the rights of this mujahid people will not really be solutions. Wise men must realize this fact; they must not fall for illusions and make the wrong assessment of temporary circumstances and situations if they want lasting stability, peace, and security in this region.

O lofty Iraqis, O glorious Iraqi women, O glorious Arabs, O believers wherever you may be, your right to an honorable, free life is a right that is deep-rooted just as the great principles of faith. This right is also based on the true standards of history and the right of the people to a virtuous and proud life that extends throughout centuries and generations. No matter how numerous conspiracies and the forms of pressure and forgery become, no one can deprive you of this right. The chapters of our faithful and sincere struggle in Iraq and the Arab homeland are full of sacrifices, losses, and gains. They are full of setbacks and victories, advancement and retreat. The Iraqis have always proven, however, that they are a faithful, alive, and great people. The Arab nation has always proven that it is a glorious nation with a great message, that renews its resources and capabilities after and during every difficult circumstance and complicated stage.

Future is in favor of Iraq, the Arab nation, and the banners of faith and the faithful ones. This is what we believe in. We have a strong and entrenched faith in this. God is with you O Iraqis. God is with you O Arabs. Right and the values of honor and justice are also with you. May God bless and protect you from evil. May God grant you success on the road of progress, pride, and benevolence.

May God have mercy on our martyrs in paradise. From God we seek success. May God's peace and blessings be upon you. God is great and accursed be the lowly ones.

## Saddam Announces 'Sedition' Wiped Out in South

*NC1603151591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1507 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Mar (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has announced that the sedition in the cities in southern Iraq has been wiped out.

His excellency also said that a new ministerial team will be announced soon that will take upon itself the task of reconstruction and the provision of basic services to the people. He declared that the decision to build a democratic society is irrevocable.

## 'Izzat Ibrahim Conveys Saddam Greetings to Army

*NC1703130291 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1145 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council and deputy commander in chief of the Armed forces, has conveyed greetings from President Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and his excellency's best wishes of pride and glory to the sons of our valiant Iraqi Army—commanders, officers, and soldiers. He was speaking during a meeting with a number of Army commanders in al-Ta'mim Governorate, attended by Comrade 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command and interior minister.

'Izzat Ibrahim said: The profound awareness of the true victory achieved from the big showdown in the mother of battles and the basic results produced by this historic victory [words indistinct] to overcome the difficulties with a militant effort is much simpler than exerted in achieving the first victory, and continuing the militant and cultural march of our people and nation to bury the evil plot for good.

'Izzat Ibrahim added: Through the long march of difficult struggle to bolster our principles and to implement them, the identity of the party and its national, pan-Arab, and human principles have become evident to the imperialist forces. Imperialism began planning and working quickly to confront the revolution and hinder its march, provoking the big battles from which Iraq has emerged victorious through its symbolic leader, great party, and revolutionary and ideological army.

He affirmed that the long and glorious history of the valiant Iraqi Army is a bright beacon and high-flying banner in the history of Iraq and the Arab nation. No yellow rancorous wind or evil and hostile force can prevent this courageous army from continuing to exist in the conscience of the leadership and the people, surrounded by wreaths of love, loyalty, and appreciation for the precious heroisms and sacrifices it has offered, thus equipping it for Arab struggle and jihad and as a faithful defender of the glorious 17-30 July revolution achievements.

'Izzat Ibrahim added that the honorable stands contained in the book of glories of the Iraqi Army, (?its) defense of the principles and goals of the people, and its bolstering of the people's victorious march were the result of the fighters' deep faith in God and their love for their homeland and for the God-supported leader, the guardian of the nation and holder of its banner of glory, leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him.

### Saddam Receives Members of RCC, Ba'th Party

*NC1603213191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2120 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Mar (INA)—President Saddam Husayn tonight received members of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, who congratulated him on the beginning of the blessed month of Ramadan.

### Continuing Fighting Reported in Najaf, Karabala'

*LD1603144391 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Excerpts] The cities of Najaf and Karbala' were once again the scenes of demonstrations and fierce fighting between the people and the Ba'athist forces. Iraqi opposition forces said that holy shrines in the cities of Karbala' and Najaf were struck yesterday by the artillery of pro-Saddam forces. [passage omitted]

Iraqi opposition sources add that holy sites in the city of Najaf, especially the tomb of His Holiness 'Ali, peace be upon him, the first imam of the Shiites, were targeted by artillary.

Dear viewers, the pictures that you are now watching were provided by Iraqi immigrants who came to our country. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Radio Voice of Revolutionary Iraq announced that the governor and the Ba'ath party chief of (Heleh), the Babel chief of police, and the head of (Heleh's) security office were executed today by the revolutionary forces. The radio broadcast an announcement inviting the Iraqi military to join the popular forces. It said that this revolution, which is being led by the Iraqi ullema, will progress only through reliance on God and popular forces. [passage omitted]

According to the latest reports, members of the 21st Division and the 441st Brigade of the Iraqi Army have joined the opposition and tribal forces. According to the Central News Unit reporting from Bakhtaran, following their joining the popular and tribal forces, hundreds of artillery pieces and a number of tanks in Sulaymaniyah Province were captured by the people. Meanwhile, the 5th Division of the Iraqi Army has been destroyed by the popular forces. As I have already said, the scenes that you are viewing were provided by Iraqi immigrants who fled to our country. [video shows clashes, ruins]

### Mosul Reportedly Seized by Opposition Forces

*NC1603152891 Paris AFP in English 1503 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Excerpt] Tehran, March 16 (AFP)—Anti-government forces have seized control of Iraq's third-largest city, Mosul, and another northern city after several days of clashes, an Iraqi opposition radio reported Saturday.

The "Voice of Iraq's Revolution," quoted by the Iranian news agency IRNA, said a popular revolt had seized control of the Kurdish city after days of clashes with government troops, but it did not say when.

The Iraqi people also "liberated" the city of Dohuk, it reported.

Iraqi authorities have been trying to quell uprisings in the Kurdish cities of the north and the mainly Shiite cities of the south, which erupted after U.S.-led forces drove Iraqi troops from Kuwait late last month.

An Iraqi refugee reported that fighting was raging between Iraqi Kurds and government forces for control of the main road linking Turkey to Iraq, according to IRNA. [passage omitted]

### 'Popular Forces' Reportedly Down PC-7 Aircraft

*LD1603173591 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report from Bakhtaran, the Iraqi popular forces targeted and shot down one of the Iraqi regime's PC-7 aircraft in the city of Klar. The pilot of the aircraft was killed in the crash.

### Tehran TV Updates Situation in Country

*LD1603175291 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Excerpts] The holy cities of Najaf and Karbala' continue to be scenes of struggle and popular unrest in Iraq. According to a Central News Unit report quoting a number of Iraqi refugees, fierce fighting between the popular and Saddam Husayn's forces continued today in Karbala', Najaf, and Khaneqin. Meanwhile, the Ba'thist forces have totally lost control of the situation in those cities.

According to an IRNA report citing a citizen of Karbala' who has taken refuge in our country, in the wake of the assault by Iraq's Republican Guards against the immaculate shrine of His Holiness Imam Husayn, may God's blessing be upon him, the fighting between the popular forces and the Republican Guards have taken on new dimensions. On the basis of the said report, the city of Najaf came under the heavy artillery attack by the Iraqi army, and the military forces are preventing the delivery of foostuffs to that city. The people are living under severe conditions.

According to further reports from the Iraqi refugees, the towns of al-Mawsil, Zakho, al-Sulaymaniyah, Zurbatiyah, Sawarah Tuka, Sarsank, (Delkuk), Kani Mazi, Shaykan, Batufah, (Asineh), (Asgdust), (Gulzakho), and 'Aqrah were also scenes of fierce fighting between the popular forces and the Ba'athist military forces.

According to an IRNA report, the Iraqi refugees also said that the popular forces have taken over control of Karkuk airbase.

The Iraqi opposition has declared that the Iraqi Army has lost control over 45,000 square kilometers of northern Iraqi territory. they also said that the forces opposed to the Ba'athist regime killed over 200 of the regime's officials when they captured al-Sulaymaniyah's security headquarters. The forces opposed to the Iraqi regime also announced that with the worsening of the situation in the north of Iraq, Saddam Husayn has dispatched his interior minister with 40,000 forces to that region to suppress the popular uprising and to take control of Karkuk. [passage omitted] [the report is read over an amateur video brought into the country by an Iraqi refugee. The video contains scenes of unrest, self-flagellation at Imam Husayn's shrine, the popular forces holding up their rifles while chanting slogans, smoke rising from buildings, a tank engulfed in flames, and nurses in a clinic]

### Rebels Said To Maintain 'Siege' at Karkuk

*LD1603190891 Tehran IRNA in English 1651 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] Bakhtaran, Mar. 16, IRNA—An Iraqi refugee said here Saturday that over 45,000 square km of Iraqi Kurdistan has come under the control of "popular forces."

He said the northeastern provinces of Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah have been wrested from government control while most of the towns and cities in Ethuk [name as received], Karkuk and Diyala Provinces in northern and eastern Iraq have fallen to the hands of the rising Kurds.

The fighting between [words indistinct] and the armed forces was hardest at the headquarters of the secret police in al-Sulaymaniyah where forces [words indistinct].

"Since many of the armymen have joined the ranks of the struggling people, casualties among the popular forces are gradually falling," disclosed the Iraqi refugee. He added that for the time being the people in liberated areas face the problem of inadequate daily provisions and fuel, but that a people's committee is rationing fuel supplies it seized from military headquarters.

He said the masses are now trying to drive out the government forces from [word indistinct]. He said it is the last bastion of the Iraqi government in the region. If Karkuk falls, he said, the entirety of the Kurdistan region of Iraq will have fallen to the people's hands.

The popular forces in Iraq have reportedly pushed out government troops from the "Darman" army headquarters about five km from Karkuk, and are tightening their siege of the government troops.

The government has sent a force of 40,000 to Karkuk in a bid to break the siege, added the refugee.

### 'Popular Forces' Reportedly Capture Al-Kut

*LD1603194791 Tehran IRNA in English 1656 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[All place-names as received]

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 16, IRNA—The city of al-Kut, capital of the Iraqi province of Wasit, fell into the hands of the popular forces this morning, the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iran (SAIRI) announced here today. The SAIRI quoting reports reaching it from Iraq, claimed that the popular forces [word indistinct] Baghdad-al-Basrah strategic road by controlling the city [words indistinct] is 100 km east of Baghdad. Meanwhile, Iraqi refugees who arrived in Iran today, said that the towns of Jessan and Zurbatiyah in the Wasit Province have also fallen into the hands of the popular forces. The town of Nomaniya in the same province had earlier been reported to be controlled by the popular forces.

### Refugees Cited on Fighting, Government Atrocities

*NC1603223991 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] Two new groups of Iraqi brothers arrived in al-Hawl camp in al-Hasakah from Baghdad and Mosul today. The arrivals reported that the popular opposition has succeeded in capturing Zakho and the areas surrounding it, liberating Fa'idah District in Dahuk Governorate, and achieving control over (Kev) Hill 18 km from Mosul. They said the Qaws Subdistrict in Mosul Governorate is now under opposition control. They asserted that opposition forces are now moving toward Rubayyah District in the north, and that al-Thawrah and al-Rashidiyah areas were recently the scene of massive demonstrations against the regime's forces. They added that hundreds of troops have laid down their weapons and joined the opposition ranks.

The arrivals also reported that the (Fishkhabur) area came under artillery bombardment before the revolutionaries succeeded in liberating it. They said that before they left Mosul, they saw dozens of tank and armored vehicles being brought into the city to suppress the uprising.

The second group of arrivals reported that they saw the Khalil Ibrahim bridge in the north after the regime's forces had blown it up to cut the opposition's supply lines. They cited eyewitnesses as saying that groups of forces loyal to the Iraqi regime have joined the opposition forces with all their weapons.

One traveler said the Iraqi regime is perpetrating the most hideous acts of repression that contravene the most basic human rights against the Iraqi citizens inside Iraq.

It has been reported that the Iraqi regime's authorities in Mosul Governorate executed an entire family and demolished their house two days ago because they suspected that a member of the family had fled the country.

### Opposition Said Preparing To March on Baghdad

*NC1703142991 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] Fierce fighting has resumed between the men of the Iraqi popular revolution and troops loyal to the head of the Iraqi regime in several cities and villages in southern and northern Iraq.

The Iraqi opposition radio Voice of the Revolution [Sawt al-Thawrah] asked the Iraqi Army not to confront the people, who are only seeking their freedom and dignity. AFP said the Voice of Revolution radio, which transmits from southeastern Iraq, today urged the Iraqi Armed Forces to join the citizens in their struggle against the head of the Iraqi regime.

Reports coming from inside Iraq assert that the uprising forces are preparing to march on Baghdad. The reports said the opposition forces are now about 20 km away from Baghdad, which is witnessing all-out popular demonstrations against the Saddam regime. Reports said the popular forces cut the Baghdad-al-Basrah road at the outskirts of al-Kut City after this city was liberated. The popular forces also gained control of Mosul City, capital of Nineveh Goverorate, and of Dahuk in northern Iraq.

An Iraqi opposition radio reported that the cities of al-'Aqra, (al-'Imadiyah), and Bamarni in the north are now under the full control of the popular forces.

An Iraqi opposition official said an area of some 45,000 square km in northern Iraq is now under the control of the popular forces opposed to the ruling regime in Baghdad. He added that all cities, villages, and districts of in Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah Governorates and most of Dahuk, Karkuk, and Diyala Governorates in northern Iraq are now under the popular forces' control.

### Government Attack on Tuz Reported Repulsed

*NC1603200091 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] Dear listeners, we have received the following report: At 0200 last night, a force loyal to the regime attacked the heroic Tuz city on five axes. The force consisted of the Special Forces' 65th Brigade, the 2d Division's commando unit, and a group of gunmen and mercenaries from the areas of al-Ramadi and Tikrit, commanded by Tariq 'Abdallah, commander of the cowardly corps, assisted by numerous large-caliber guns, mortars, and helicopters, and many tanks, troop carriers, and other armored vehicles. The attack was carried out on the following axes: The first axis extended from (Mafraq Naybul) to (Darband Sulayman); the second from Sulayman Bak to (Kataka); the third axis extended from the road leading to Karkuk to the city of Tuz; the fourth from (Bablan) to the city itself; the fifth from the Tikrit road in the direction of the city. The revolutionary and armed masses of the people and our heroic Peshmerga forces confronted them. Ferocious battles took place that lasted from 0200 last night until 1000 [today]. Following these battles, the attacking forces retreated after suffering grievous losses in lives and equipment. Their losses were as follows: More than 100 members of the special forces and the mercenaries supporting the regime were killed. The corpses of 40 could be seen. Among them was a group of officers: a major and four first lieutenants. The names of two have been learned. They are Lieutenant Yunis and [name indistinct]. In addition, seven of the enemy were captured, including a lieutenant.

Blessed are your hands and may you long live to carry on the struggle for the sake of our Kurdish people. Forward, from victory to victory.

Dear listeners, we now announce to you the enemy's losses and the spoils we have captured. First, the enemy's losses: One helicopter was downed. It fell in Qalqanlu. Second, one tank was destroyed. Our spoils have been, first, an [word indistinct] antiaircraft gun; second, three DSh K-38 machineguns; third, one large radio set; fourth, two small (?radar) sets; fifth, three RPG launchers; sixth, two 82-mm mortars; seventh, one 60-mm mortar and a quantity of automatic rifles.

[At 1800 GMT on 16 March, the radio announces: "All hills, military fortifications, and camps from (?Qarah Qush) and Sarbashakh to the Dibis area have been seized and brought under control."]

### Opposition Radio Cited on Mosul, Dahuk Capture

*NC1603225591 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] Fierce battles have continued in several cities and villages in northern and southern Iraq between the men of the Iraqi popular revolution and the forces loyal to the head of the Iraqi regime, who has not hesitated to use all kinds of weapons—including incendiary bombs and helicopters—in an attempt to control the situation.

The opposition radio station, the voice of the Iraqi revolution, has said that the city of Mosul, the third largest city in Iraq, fell to the hands of the rebels following several days of fighting. The radio added that the Iraqi popular forces captured the city of Dahuk in northern Iraq, while clashes are still continuing around the city of Karkuk, the second oil-producing city in the north.

Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], has said that the Islamic holy shrines in al-Najaf and Karbala' were exposed to violent shelling from the Iraqi regime's artillery and aircraft. He noted that the indiscriminate shelling by the regime's loyal forces of the cities of al-Najaf and Karbala' as well as the use of poisonous gas has led to the killing of more than 2,000 innocent civilians.

In a statement, SAIRI spokesman Engineer Bayan Jabr said that the popular forces in the city of Jalula' repulsed the attack on the city, which was carried out by Tank Battalion 75 of the regime's guards forces. He said that the popular forces destroyed several tanks of the attacking battalion, captured four tanks, and killed that battalion's commander and his assistant. He said that 80 officers and soldiers have joined the popular forces, and the rest have fled.

A SAIRI statement said that the Iraqi regime managed to bring foodstuffs full of fatal poison to the city of Khanaqin, exploiting the state of starvation in the city, and poisoned many persons.

### 60 Percent of Iraqi Kurdistan Supports Rebels

*NC1203122691 Paris AFP in English 1200 GMT 12 Mar 91*

[Text] Beirut, March 12 (AFP)—More than 60 per cent of Iraqi Kurdistan is now in the hands of Kurdish rebels, a key rebel leader said here Tuesday on the sidelines of an opposition congress. Jalal Talabani said fighters grouped under the banner of the Kurdistan Front now controlled 42,000 square kilometers (16,800 square miles) of northern Iraq, notably the Sulaymaniyah region and a part of Irbil city.

The head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) also told Agence France-Presse that government forces were making only limited efforts to recapture the territory. Some 60,000 loyalist soldiers had defected and joined the ranks of the insurgents, he said.

In Tehran a PUK spokesman told the Iranian news agency IRNA that Kurdish forces had captured three cities in eastern Iraq despite alleged threats by government troops to kill 5,000 women and children thay had taken hostage. He said the women and children had been rounded up in Kirkuk province, which is currently besieged by rebel forces.

Iraqi troops are threatening to kill their captives "if the unrest and attacks on governmental institutions continue," the official Iranian news agency reported. It quoted the Kurdish spokesman as saying the cities of Khanaqin and Jalula in Diyala province and Qushnabi [as received] in Irbil province were now in rebel hands.

Reports of unrest in the northern region of Kurdistan and the largely Shiite south have not been independently confirmed. The U.S. State Department said Monday that actions by Kurdish rebels appeared to be on the rise while unrest in the south was subsiding.

The Iraqi government in its official media has made no direct mention of the revolt, stressing instead its efforts to restore public services and a semblance of normality following the Persian Gulf war. In Beirut, meanwhile, delegates from some 23 Iraqi opposition groups began a second day of discussions aimed at consolidating their drive to oust President Saddam Husayn.

Hojat ol-eslam Abulaziz al-Hakim, an official of the Tehran-based Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI), insisted his coalition was "not fighting to install a Shiite regime in Iraq after the fall of Saddam." The movement instead will "respect the free choice of the Iraqi people," said Mr. al-Hakim, the brother of SAIRI leader Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim.

Mr. al-Hakim, addressing the congress on Tuesday, added that "there is no longer any reason for a foreign presence in Iraq. Justification did exist—but no longer." U.S. and allied forces are still occupying a chunk of southern Iraq and have said they would remain until a formal cease-fire was worked out with Baghdad, whose troops they drove from Kuwait late last month.

A Kurdish delegate at the talks said later his partisans "appreciated the moderate and unifying tone to the remarks of Mr. al-Hakim," adding that the congress "has so far been a great success." A final resolution was expected to be published Wednesday, but conference sources said tentative plans to form a government or parliament in exile had been abandoned.

Unified delegations, comprising delegates from Islamic, Kurdish and nationalist forces, could also be formed at the end of the conference to represent the Iraqi opposition in Europe and the Middle East. Representatives at the Beirut congress are anxious to present a united front and have sought to minimize their differences, relying on optimistic—if somewhat abstract—pronouncements. Accounts of the disturbances in Iraq itself are hailed as "great victories" but delegates are rarely able to provide specific details of the revolt.

### Kurdish Leader Al-Talabani Reviews Situation

*NC1503103491 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 13 Mar 91 p 6*

[Interview with Jalal al-Talabani, leader of the Iraqi Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, in Beirut; date not given]

[Text] [AL-SAFIR] What is the news on the Iraqi Kurdish delegation's visit to Turkey?

[Al-Talabani] I personally led the delegation. We met a Turkish delegation that included representatives of the Turkish Presidency, the cabinet office, the Foreign Ministry, and military intelligence. Discussions dealt with the situation in Iraq and the Kurdish area and with the Kurdish situation as a whole. Agreement was reached on the following:

—To support the Iraqi people's struggle to topple the dictator.
—To receive a delegation from the Iraqi opposition that represents the Joint Action Committee.
—To receive a delegation from the Iraqi Kurdish Front.
—Not to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs.
—Not to oppose the acquisition of the Kurdish people's rights within the Iraqi Republic.

There remains a principal point of difference that concerns the Turkish position on the Kurdish Workers' Party, which is waging armed struggle in Turkey. Turkish officials believe it is a terrorist party hostile to the interests of both the Turkish and Kurdish peoples. Jalal al-Talabani considers it a revolutionary party and that such issues cannot be dealt with in this way.

We believe that the issue in Turkey cannot be solved except by giving the Kurdish political forces there their rights and freedoms.

[AL-SAFIR] When did the visit take place?

[Al-Talabani] It began last Friday [8 March] and ended on Sunday.

[AL-SAFIR] What is your comment on Turkish President Turgut Ozal's call to set up federal rule in Iraq?

[Al-Talabani] That question must be addressed to Ozal. I asked, why is Ozal talking about federal rule in Iraq, and why does he not give us an example of this by setting up a federal system in Turkey that we can follow?

[AL-SAFIR] How is your relationship with Iran?

[Al-Talabani] Our relations with Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Syria are normal and we are seeking to develop them.

[AL-SAFIR] Who was behind your visit to Turkey?

[Al-Talabani] It was at the request of Ozal, and the Kurdish Front approved this initiative. Ozal made the invitation in a personal talk with a mutual friend who works as a journalist (Jenkins Shandar). No country is behind this visit.

[AL-SAFIR] Why do you demand autonomous rule in Iraq yet do not demand it in Turkey?

[Al-Talabani] The Kurdish people is fighting for its democratic rights, the least of which is autonomous rule in Iraq. This is our natural right.

[AL-SAFIR] Do you expect Saddam Husayn to last long in power?

[Al-Talabani] No, I do not. I expect his downfall soon, in a matter of weeks.

[AL-SAFIR] Does the United States want a civil war in Iraq?

[Al-Talabani] It is thinking of setting up a coupist government [hukumatan inqilabiyah] in Iraq to prevent the opposition from taking over rule and its victory.

[AL-SAFIR] Where does the revolution in Iraq get its weapons now?

[Al-Talabani] From the state's depots.

[AL-SAFIR] Do you fear a specific Turkish role?

[Al-Talabani] Turkey wants "to democratize" the region.

[AL-SAFIR] And what does Iran want?

[Al-Talabani] I am not an Iranian envoy.

## Differences Seen at Beirut Opposition Conference

*NC1403131391 Paris AFP in English 1253 GMT 14 Mar 91*

[By Michel Moutot]

[Excerpts] Beirut, March 14 (AFP)—Iraqi opposition forces have emerged from a three-day conference here united on the need to oust Saddam Husayn but little else, while on the ground their militants reported pitched battles against government troops. [passage omitted]

Some 300 delegates from more than 20 opposition parties delivered speeches and conferred informally for three days this week in a bid to convince the world—notably the U.S.-led anti-Iraqi alliance—that they are a credible alternative to President Husayn.

But differences quickly emerged among representatives from Kurdish, Islamic, and secular nationalist groups.

While Hojat ol-Eslam 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Hakim, a senior figure with the Tehran-based Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI), stressed that his movement was not seeking to impose a Shiite regime in Iraq, another SAIRI official hinted just the opposite.

The official, speaking in Tehran, said the coalition could under certain conditions become Iraq's "first constituent assembly. There was an immediate response to the confusion from Jalal Talbani, the venerable leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. "Unacceptable!" he thundered. "We demand the election of a constituent assembly after the liberation of the country."

The starkly disparate elements of the Iraqi opposition talked intensely to one another at the Bristol Hotel here but several delegates privately acknowledged their suspicions. The congress had hoped to win the enthusiastic endorsement of parties or individuals who had not signed a common political platform at a meeting in Damascus in late December. But support came only from several individuals, who have lived in exile for years in Saudi Arabia and Britain and who provided merely moral backing.

The need to back the insurrection on the ground was repeatedly raised but no concrete measures were approved. "I had hoped at least for the establishment of a military coordination committee linking the different regions," one nationalist delegate told AFP. "But we were unable to."

"If we don't get beyond slogans, it will not be enough," declared Hassan an-Naqib, a former Iraqi Army general. "We must join the struggle on the ground."

## Al-Najaf Shaykh Interviewed on Recent 'Riots'

*NC1503220091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2105 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Mar (INA)—Shaykh Ja'far, an eyewitness to the recent riots in the holy city of al-Najaf, has affirmed that the riots involved killing, looting, stealing, and setting buildings, cars, and government buildings on fire. In an interview aired by Baghdad television tonight, he said that the tragedy of these events is that innocent citizens were killed, which is rejected and forbidden by Islam. He noted that the rioters took citizens from their homes and killed them in front of their children. They also committed rapes and took a number of citizens to the shrine of Imam 'Ali Bin-Abi-Talib and killed them in the holy shrine because they refused to participate with them in their criminal acts.

Shaykh Ja'far added that he was beaten by the rioters who forced many citizens to participate in their vandalism under threat of arms.

Shaykh Ja'far described the riots as a blatant violation and disavowal of the teachings and doctrine of Islam, which forbids killing and aggression. He added that it would have been better for those criminals to participate in reconstructing what was demolished by the Americans and their allies instead of destroying their own city and killing its sons.

Concluding his statement, Shaykh Ja'far affirmed that those rioters deserve severe punishment for the criminal acts [words indistinct] aggression and spreading [word indistinct] and alarm among the citizens.

## 'Army Deserter' on Acts of Rioting in Karbala'

*NC1503220591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2103 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Mar (INA)—Baghdad television this evening aired an interview with one of the unscrupulous criminals who joined subsersive gangs to disrupt the peace in our peaceful country.

Criminal Mahdi Hamzah 'Abbas, an Army deserter, said that during recent rioting at the sacred city of Karbala' carried out by mobs with criminal records, he had taken part in murders, looting, arson, and rapes. He said the rioters attacked government and party offices, and looted warehouses and commercial premises in the city.

The armed gangs of rioters began by attacking police stations, where they killed some policemen and then ransacked and set the buildings on fire.

The criminal said the vandalism extended to the governorate's building where a number of its employees were killed and sentries attacked. The rioters also attacked the Popular Army Headquarters where six of its members standing guard were killed and three others detained, and then weapons were stolen and distributed among other members of the mob.

He said that along with a number of the rioters, he went to the home of a member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, after they had killed him at the Popular Army Headquarters. There, they raped his wife and killed his 11-year-old son. Afte pillaging the house, they proceeded to the city's Security Department where they killed three people, looted the building, and then set it on fire.

The criminal said the rioters were Army deserters, common criminals, and others with criminal records. He said they had killed members of the military in the city and on its approaches.

The criminal added that his father, too, had killed three civilians during the rioting in the holy city of Karbala'.

He indicated that the rioters also looted date warehouses, canneries, the Karbala' complex, commercial businesses, and cooperatives in the city.

## Baghdad TV Interviews Anti-Government 'Rioter'

*NC1603204591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1935 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Mar (INA)—Baghdad television tonight screened an interview with one of the criminal rioters who accepted humiliation and disgrace, sold their consciences for a few pennies, and joined the ranks of the saboteurs to undermine security and stability in secure and peaceful Iraq.

The criminal Dawud Salim Hammud, a student and resident of Baghdad, related how he joined the rancorous groups in return for money to spread confusion, carry out robbery and looting, and disturb the security. He said that he moved with his family to Karbala' Province where he joined the bands of infidelity and aggression.

He said that the attacks which he and his treasonous followers carried out included burglarizing homes and robbing people of property and money. This was in addition to carrying out robberies against government institutions and shops in Karbala' and looting the contents of markets and stores in Bab al-Husayn and Bab al-'Abbas, including women's and men's clothing, electrical equipment, food, and other items.

## Student Describes 'Rioters,' 'Criminals' Acts'

*NC1603203791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1945 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Mar (INA)—The student Nizar Husayn Kamil of al-Shatrah in Dhi Qar Governorate has said that the tragic form taken by the riots that occurred in his city is a disgrace to humanity.

He added that the rioters are a group of army deserters, criminals, and people with a history of criminal offenses. He said that they killed military and civilians inside the city and on the roads leading to it.

In an interview broadcast by Baghdad television tonight, the student said that these criminals' acts, which included murder, plunder, robbery, and burning of buildings, vehicles, and government departments, are unacceptable by all divine and human norms.

The student Nizar Husayn Kamil pointed out that those participating in the riots and disturbances dragged citizens from their homes and killed them in front of their children. They also violated people's honor. He asserted that he was beaten up and his sisters were raped in their home under armed threat.

## Opposition Radio Cited on Appeal for Aid

*LD1603111391 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] In an appeal to all the countries, especially the Islamic countries and the international organizations, the Voice of Revolutionary Iraq has asked for help to save the people of Iraq, especially children, from certain death.

The Voice of Revolutionary Iraq, which broadcasts from inside Iraq and reflects the stances of the popular forces, announced today before noon that Saddam's forces have surrounded food stores in the towns and villages. It said the sick and the wounded face shortages of medicines, and as such they are threatened by death.

The message, which was broadcast today and heard in Tehran as well, said that international aid dispatched to Iraq is distributed by Saddam among the Armed Forces and denied to other people. The Iraqi nation, especially the children, are threatened by hunger and death.

## Clandestine Radio Said To Invite Foreign Press

*NC1603114891 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] Yesterday, a clandestine radio station in northern Iraq broadcasting in the name of the uprising announced that foreign journalists will be invited to visit the areas controlled by the forces of the popular uprising in the north.

Iraqi refugees who arrived in Iran yesterday said that the members of the popular uprising are currently besieging a shelter in al-Basrah, where 'Ali Hasan al-Majid—the Iraqi interior minister and one of Saddam's relatives who is known for his terrorism—is hiding.

## Commentary Warns Saddam of His Impending Fate

*LD1703235191 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Iraq in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Station political commentary]

[Excerpts] Shame is one drop and not a river, as they say, and if you are not ashamed then do what you want. The Iraqis, the Arabs, and the whole world did not expect any manliness or sense of shame or honor from Saddam Husayn. They know very well that Saddam Husayn is no man; he has no sense of shame and he is not honorable. The sole decision that Iraqis, without exception, had expected you to announce today, you Saddam, son of Husayn, son of al-'Uja, [play on words: Al-'Uja is Saddam's native village, but also means "twisted," a reference to Saddam's mother who has a physical defect] is a decision to abandon power, a short announcement in which you admit your defeat, your failure as a leader, and in which you apologize to your people for the destruction that came at your hands, and for the blessed blood that you caused to flow on the sands of the State of Kuwait. Then you must pledge before God and before your people to assume responsibility, as men do, and take your stick and go.

Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir, because he was a real and honorable man and leader, from the second day of the setback, came to the Arab nation, like all heros do, and admitted that he alone bore the responsibility for the defeat, and that he was abandoning power. But what prompted the Arab masses in Egypt and in every town and village in the Arab homeland to come out, all of them, urging him to return, was not the gold stolen from Kuwait, or the ill-gotten money that buys corrupt consciences. It was the courage of 'Abd al-Nasir, his manliness, and his honor.

As for you Saddam, you still cling to the post with your hands, feet, and teeth, with pettiness, humiliation, and shamelessness. In this, your only equals are the foolish tyrants who have petty minds and who see that the only value for them is the seat of power, and who guarantee safety only after they kill, or before they are killed. As for you Saddam, you have proved that you are no more than a harmful insect sticking to the body of Iraq, an insect that can be plucked out of it only with a knife.

O you are sitting on the skulls of thousands of dead, on the total destruction of Iraq, on the overall misery of the Iraqis, while the occupation forces are 100 km from you, and from your stinking treacherous den. You know that you are besieged and repelled. But those who will pay the price for your procrastination over leaving are the patient and consistent people of Iraq, whose unextinguishable revolution and Intifadah were caused by your crimes. You speak about the rebuilding of Iraq with all cockiness, while you have heard with your ears and touched with your hands that the whole world does not want you, that the Iraqis are now fighting to remove you and take revenge from you, that the borders of the homeland are closed to you and your henchmen, and that from now on, the world will never give you a single dime, nor will the world alleviate the siege of our people so long as you continue to stick to power in Iraq with this selfishness and arrogance. [passage omitted]

Only today [as heard] you declared yourself against a war that will not end except in your defeat, or in your being annihilated under foot, just like any obdurate and arrogant despot who leaves the seat of power only with the whip or the stick. O you arrogant tyrant, a merciless war is coming to you, together with a revolution that does not calm down, and a march that does not stop except in Baghdad, where the banner of freedom will be hoisted on the bodies of your henchmen and relatives. What happened to Nuri Sa'id and 'Abd al-Ilah [slaughtered during the revolution in 1958] will have no common measure with your own fate. [passage omitted]

Today you have broken the last threat betwen yourself and your family, and you have driven the last nail in the posts of your gallows. Welcome to the war you have chosen between yourself and the brave people of Iraq and its valiant Army, which will side only with its kinfolk, only with right, honor, and dignity, and the will of God. A just bullet will be coming to you soon, very soon, taking you unawares, O Saddam, son of Husayn, arrogant son of al-'Uja.

## Kurdish Chieftains Pledge Loyalty to Saddam

*NC1603212891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1745 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] Kirkuk, 11 Mar (INA)—'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council, has conveyed President Saddam Husayn's greetings to the sons of our Kurdish people and his pride in the sons of great Iraq.

This came during Ibrahim's reception of a number of Kurdish chieftains at the command headquarters of the al-Ta'mim branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Kirkuk. The meeting was attended by 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command, and 'Adnan Ghaydan, governor of al-Ta'mim and secretary of the Ba'th Party's al-Ta'mim branch.

'Izzat Ibrahim said: The homeland's days are long and Iraq's life, by virtue of its glorious history and its lofty civilization, is long, and its days are full of glory and heroism. The people who lived on this land, the land of God and the land that lies between two immortal rivers, played a memorable role in regulating life and in building the civilization from generation to generation. The role of every leader, every person, and every fighter remains recorded in bold and immortal letters now and for generations to come. The efforts and sacrifices that are made today and that will be made in the future are recorded and kept as a testimony to the ability of our people and our generous children to stand firm in face of challenges and to build their future on the basis of dignity, pride, and freedom.

'Izzat Ibrahim added: The sons of our people, especially the fighters, must not forget history; they must evoke all its meanings because history is an immortal record, a valuable treasure, and an inspiration for the true mujahidin. The preservation of history in all its meanings is linked with the preservation of national and personal honor and dignity. Therefore, this important juncture in the life of great Iraq is the most cherished juncture in its history and represents a watershed in the course of our history today, as we fight the enemies and the agents of the imperialist and Zionist powers.

The Kurdish chieftains pledged to President Saddam Husayn to continue to march behind his courageous leadership in defending great Iraq. They also expressed their readiness to sacrifice themselves and their assets for the president.

## Tribal Chiefs Renew Allegiance to Saddam

*NC1503170491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Mar (INA)—The tribes of great Iraq and the militant Iraqi masses have renewed their love and allegiance to the architect of the victorious Iraqi progress, President Saddam Husayn, and pledged to do everything for the sake of the national soil and the unity of the sacred Iraqi territory.

In cables to President Saddam Husayn, masses and tribes affirmed their absolute support for his excellency's wise and rational leadership in order to complete the victory over the enemies of Iraq and the glorious Arab nation. The president received cables from the al-Budraj, al-Rawiyeen, al-Hamadaniyeen, al-Bu-Hayyat, al-Kara'ul, al-Jafayifah, al-Juburi, Shammar, and al-Makadimah tribes.

The president received cables from the al-Fartus tribe in al-Shinafiyah, the al-Shibl tribe in al-Qadisiyah Governorate, and al-Habbat in the al-Hamrah District. Arriving at the presidential palace information office, the tribal chiefs Jiyad Husayn Hawi, Husayn Ru'ayyir, Miri 'Atiyah voiced allegiance and absolute support to President Saddam Husayn, the architect of new Iraq, the inspirer of Iraqi people, and the pride and symbol of Iraq and the Arab nation, and pledged to defend the homeland and confront the rapacious and charlatan enemies.

Shaykh Haj Ibrahim Jamil 'Abd al-Salmani, the chief of the al-Salman tribe in al-Tarmiyah, affirmed his tribe's support for the leadership of President Saddamn Husayn, who is supported by God. He said all the sons of his tribe are ready to defend great and proud Iraq against all those who dare to encroach on its security and sacred territorial integrity.

The Khafajah tribe has reiterated its absolute backing for President Saddam Husayn in defense of great Iraq and to preserve the achievements and gains that were realized by the blessed 17-30 July revolution.

Mr. Bahlul Musa said that the Khafajah tribe's people will sacrifice their nearest and dearest to protect the sacred soil of the homeland under President Saddam Husayn's wise leadership.

In a cable, the al-Mas'ud tribe of the al-Iskandariyah subdistrict said that they were also prepared to sacrifice their nearest and dearest to safeguard Iraq's dignity and pride.

The tribe's chief Samid Muhammad renewed his pledge to President Saddam Husayn to defend victorious Iraq under the leadership of President Leader Saddam Husayn, the builder of Iraq's march and the symbol of its pride and greatness.

Ghazi 'Abd-al-Razzaq for the 'Ata tribe in al-Iskandariyah subdistrict asserted that members of his tribe will rally around President Saddam Husayn's unique and brave leadership and emphasized their high readiness to defend great Iraq and to protect the gains and achievements made under the blessed 17 July revolution.

Al-Nawafilah tribe declared the readiness of its young and old men to carry arms to safeguard a free, honorable, and unified Iraq under the leadership of struggler President Saddam Husayn. Shaykh 'Ajami Muhammad al-'Ali al-Janabi, in a cable on behalf of the al-Nawafilah tribe, said that the sons of the tribe are ready to serve the leader of Iraq and symbol of its dignity and loftiness, President Saddam Husyan, in defense of Iraq, its dignity and pride.

Shaykh Ibrahim 'Ali Mutlaq, chief of the al-Bujwari tribe renewed homage to President Saddam Husayn and his unique and valiant leadership. His cable said that all of the tribe's sons stand in one line to defend great Iraq and rebuild it so as to continue its revival and civilization.

Chief of the al-Nadawat tribe in Baghdad and al-Rashidiyah Shaykh 'Abd-al-Sattar Muhmmad al-Sab' pledged to struggler President Saddam Husayn to offer any sacrifice in defense of (?great Iraq).

In its cable, the al-Muntafak tribes in the Wasit Governorate stressed to remain a bridge for Iraq's dignity and pride. Speaking on behalf of the tribe, Hamid 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Sa'dun said that the (?banner) of the martyrs who confronted the imperialist and anti-Arab onslaught will remain fluttering to bury all dens of evil and aggression.

## Saddam Receives Cable From Yemeni Ba'thists

*NC1503185291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Mar (INA)—The regional command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP] in Yemen has reiterated that the steadfastness of the sons of Iraq and their heroic epics in the mother of battles will remain in the memory of the Arab nation now and in the future.

Dr. Qasim Sallam Sa'id, ASBP regional command secretary has sent a cable to President Saddam Husayn expressing pride and admiration for the Iraqi people's achievements under his leadership. He said: Your confrontation of the imperialist-U.S.-Zionist-reactionary treacherous aggression is historic and has astonished the nation's enemies and gladdened its good friends in the world.

Dr. Qasim Sa'id added that the Zionists and their American masters and their allies of traitor rulers, who have betrayed the Arab and Islamic nation, believed they could destroy Iraq and its civilization. But woe to their dreams and plans. They imagined they could [words indistinct] with their fingers. Let them know that Saddam's Iraq is stronger than their imagination and that Iraq's people and Army, like their palm trees, are rich with historical roots and nobility.

The ASBP regional command in fraternal Yemen said in its cable: You have proved to the world your distinguished desire to establish peace, security, and stability in the region. You have also emphasized your determination to continue the struggle for the liberation of the nation and to reject imperialist hegemony on the Arab nation. You exposed all the conspiratorial schemes, which aimed at squandering the nation's wealth and playing havoc with its destinies. You lifted the masks and veils which covered the faces of some rulers and exposed the traitors who stood with them in the same trench against great Iraq and who placed the nation's capabilities in service of imperialists to destroy Iraq, circumvent the nation, obstruct its rising march, undermine the spirit of aspirations, and keep it humiliated and captive relying on [word indistinct] civilization.

## Ba'th Party Official Speaks at Al-Ta'min Meeting

*NC1603174191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1622 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] Comrade 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, member of the regional command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has declared that the major and fierce conspiracy against Iraq is designed to make bad everything that is good, extinguish the light in the minds, and hinder the process of cultural and human progress among our great people.

Speaking at an expanded meeting of the heads and department officials in al-Ta'mim Province, comrade al-Majid said that national duty dictates that the glorious women and the glorious sons of the province continue their contribution and form a single family to undertake joint efforts to thwart the conspiracies of the enemies and their suspect and evil schemes against the homeland's security, stability, and unity. They should serve as the strong hand and vigilant eye to protect the noble principles and values and the achievements made by the 17 and 30 July revolution and its leading party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

Al-Majid added that the coming days will witness further progress and prosperity, and that glory and dignity will be achieved through the Iraqi people, thanks to their devotion, steadfastness, and support for the unique historic leadership of President Saddam Husayn.

The meeting, which was held at the hall of the al-Ta'mim party branch in Karkuk, was attended by 'Adnan Ghuzat, governor of al-Ta'mim; Nasif [words indistinct], secretary of the party branch command; and a number of officials in the province.

## 'Izzat Ibrahim Addresses Al-Ta'mim Party Meeting

*NC1503214591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1915 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] Karkuk, 15 Mar (INA)—'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy secretary of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, met in the al-Ta'mim Governorate with Sa'di Mahdi Salih, 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, and Kamil Yasin Rashid, members of the Party Regional Command, and the general director of the Regional Command Secretariat office.

'Izzat Ibrahim presided over an expanded meeting of the Command of the al-Ta'mim Branch of the Ba'th Party. 'Izzat Ibrahim affirmed during the meeting that the doctrine of Ba'th, which is known for its genuine and honest militant and historical characteristics, can only be adopted by a leadership and men with special characteristics, by a people who have special characteristics, and by a leader who has special characteristics.

He said that we, our people, our leader, and our Army have this honor. And the forces of colonialism were certain that this doctrine was in harmony with the characteristics of the men in terms of practice, implementation, and militant programs. This made them concoct plots and embark on aggression long ago to stop this awakening and abort the unionist, liberation, and revolutionary program of our nation and people—the program in which this country and its sons believed and for which they offered dear sacrifices.

'Izzat Ibrahim added that the march of the revolutionary struggle of our people has expressed a historical act that qualifies the nation to enter into the glorious history. And the great sacrifices presented by our people were the gate through which they have entered toward dignity, honor, and pride so that the banner will remain high and our dear militant heritage will be safeguarded for the nation and the militant sons of Iraq.

'Izzat Ibrahim affirmed that we continue the struggle unshaken and with the same militant spirit with which we fought our enemies throughout 22 years and with the same spirit of our great ancestors who carried the glorious Islamic message. He said that the mother of battles will continue to represent the brilliant star of the long march throughout the past years of the revolution. The 43 days of the glorious mother of battles and the unjust blockade that was imposed on our people will remain an example before the mujahidin, the good people, and the sons of this great nation in their struggle for the sake of the great principles in which they believed through their patience, confrontation, and sacrifices.

Ibrahim added that we have achieved a great and unique historic victory that was not achieved by any nation or people. [words indistinct] The camp of the evil ones has never before gathered like this; it came this time to confront all the good believers in a great historical confrontation motivated by their evil intentions against the nation, its awakening, culture, and history. And the victory is represented by waging the confrontation and aborting the objectives of the aggressors.

'Izzat Ibrahim called on the party strugglers to continue their giving; to defend Iraq and the principles against all attempts, the chapters of conspiracy, and aggression; to arm themselves with the belief in God, the people, the nation, the homeland, and the inevitable and final victory; to reinforce the march of our people that is based on a historical and militant depth; and to recall the shining pages of the march of our struggle against the forces which are trying to halt our progress and march toward achieving our humanitarian principles.

The meeting was attended by members of the Regional Command Sa'di Mahdi Salih, 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, and Kamil Yasin Rashid, and the general director of the Regional Command Secretariat office.

## Ibrahim Meets With Al-Ta'mim Officials

*NC1503194191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1845 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] Karkuk, 15 Mar (INA)—'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolutionary Command Council [RCC] vice chairman, has conveyed the greetings of President Saddam Husayn to the masses of the al-Ta'mim Governorate, his excellency's pride for the steadfastness of the sons of the governorate, and his desire to provide them with the necessary services.

This came during 'Izzat Ibrahim's meeting yesterday at the al-Ta'mim Governorate building with Interior Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, al-Ta'mim Governor 'Adnan Ghaydan, and the secretary of the Ba'th Party's branch in al-Ta'mim.

The RCC vice chairman said that the masses of the great Iraqi people have through their cohesion with their historic leadership succeeded in crushing the enemy and his evil designs, in reiterating their faith in their great principles, and in safeguarding the huge gains accomplished by the march of bitter struggle and sacrifice led by President Saddam Husayn, the knight of the nation and the builder of its glories and [words indistinct].

'Izzat Ibrahim gave instructions to the officials in the governorate to render as soon as possible the basic services and reconstruct the installations that were destroyed by the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic aggression in order to enhance our people's capabilities and civilization.

The meeting was attended by members of the party's organizational offices and a number of officials and cadres in the al-Ta'mim Governorate.

### Ba'th Official Discusses Services in Karbala'

*NC1503183891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1818 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] Karbala', 15 Mar (INA)—'Abd-al-Hasan Zahi Fir'awn, member of the Ba'th Party Regional command and secretary of the Euphrate's organizational office in Karbala', met today with the secretary and members of the party's branch in Karbala'. During the meeting, which was attended by the governor of Karbala', they discussed the status of services rendered to the citizens and the means to reconstruct what has been destroyed by the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic war machine in the Governorate of Karbala'.

### Ba'th Party Officer Meets Officials in Al-Basrah

*NC1603193091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] Comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the regional command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, met in the headquarters of the organization's southern branch with 'Abdallah Sayyid [word indistinct], the governor of al-Basrah, and the heads of the departments in the province. They discussed speeding up the provision of services to the residents of al-Basrah, the city of [word indistinct].

Comrade 'Abd-al-Ghafur stated during the meeting that the aggression against Iraq, launched by the imperialist-Zionist-Atlantic forces led by the United States of America, targetted Iraq's cultural infrastructure established under the wise leadership of leader President Saddam Husayn. He referred to the destruction that the aggression has caused to the marks of progress and development and to the installations offering services to the citizens. He said: This places responsibility on everyone to work hard and quickly to provide the best services to the citizens of valiant al-Basrah.

The participants in the meeting pledged to leader President Saddam Husayn to make further efforts [word indistinct] of victory and [words indistinct] the aggression of 30 states hostile to the aspirations of the people and the nation.

The meeting was attended by comrades and members of the south organization bureau and officials in the province.

### Ba'th Party Official Visits Khanaqin

*NC1603200391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1818 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] Comrade [words indistinct], member of the regional command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has conveyed the greetings of leader President Saddam Husayn to the people of Khanaqin and his excellency's admiration for the devotion and steadfastness of the city's sons and his eagerness to provide the necessary services. This took place during a meeting at the headquarters of the party branch in Khanaqin.

The meeting was attended by the secretary and members of the party branch command. The discussion during the meeting dealt with services [words indistinct]. He met with the secretary and members of [words indistinct] and conveyed to them the greetings of leader President Saddam Husayn to the district masses. [Words indistinct] during the meeting dealt with the services provided to the residents of the district.

### UN Envoy Meets U.S. Counterpart in New York

*NC1503102291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1004 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] New York, United Nations, 15 Mar (INA)—Iraq's Permanent UN Representative 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari yesterday held talks with his American counterpart, Thomas Pickering, at the headquarters of the U.S. mission in the United Nations. This is the third meeting between the two representatives since the Gulf war ceased on 27 February.

### 'Aziz Discusses Relief Aid With UN Officer

*NC1603213991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2050 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Mar (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met this evening with Martti Ahtisaari, UN under secretary general for administration and management, who is visiting Iraq to view the country's needs for humanitarian relief as a result of the military operations.

During the meeting, they reviewed the work accomplished with the Iraqi experts in this regard, particularly in view of the damage that has affected various facilities connected with the citizens' daily life.

The foreign minister asserted that the extent of the destruction, which the visiting team saw during its field visits, demonstrates the facts resulting from the military operations carried out against Iraq.

He voiced the hope that the UN secretary general, the UN Security Council, and the international community will note these facts and act immediately to lift the siege imposed on Iraq, in view of the fact that Iraq has complied with its obligations in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs and director of the Foreign Ministry's International Organizations Department, also attended the meeting.

### Amnesty Period for Deserters Extended Four Days

*NC1603115991 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Decree No. 73 issued by the Revolution Command Council, RCC, in Baghdad on 16 March]

[Text]In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

RCC Decree No. 73, dated 28 Sha'ban 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 16 March 1991.

Because transportation has not been able to cope with the requests for transporting deserters, absentees, and draft-dodgers during the amnesty issued under RCC Decree No. 60 on 8 March 1991, and taking cognizance of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the constitution, the RCC has decided the following:

1. The extension of the amnesty period by four more days, beginning on 16 March 1991 and ending on 19 March 1991.

2. The defense minister shall implement this decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman.

### Ministry Reports 499 Gulf War POW's Come Home

*NC1603181591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Mar (INA)—Four hundred and ninety-nine prisoners taken during the Gulf war have returned home. An official Foreign Ministry source told INA that the prisoners who returned yesterday [words indistinct] places assigned to them by the authorities and then they will be taken from there to their families.

### Presidential Office Bans Alcohol During Ramadan

*NC1603114591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1048 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] The Presidential Office has issued the following instructions on the occasion of the blessed month of Ramadan:

1. Breaking the fast in public [al-iftar al-'alani] is strictly forbidden. The responsible departments must take the necessary measures against violators.

2. During the month of Ramadan, the following places will be closed:
a. Taverns and nightclubs
b. Shops that sell alcoholic drinks
c. Nightspots in hotels

3. All clubs and restaurants, regardless of their categories, are forbidden to serve alcoholic drinks.

4. Bars in restaurants, clubs, and other places will be closed.

5. Regarding restaurants:
a. Restaurants and cafeterias in state departments and factories will be closed.
b. Licenses for opening restaurants during the month of Ramadan will be given to tourist restaurants on main highways only and to first class restaurants in towns. In the towns where there are no first class restaurants, licenses will be issued for the operation of two to five restaurants per governorate, one to three restaurants per district, and one restaurant per subdistrict. The licenses will be issued according to instructions by the interior minister and the governors. In all the above cases the restaurants will put covers on their doors.

6. All public coffee shops will close from sunrise to sunset.

7. The interior minister will issue a detailed statement on the bases for implementing these instructions, which will be in line with this statement. [words indistinct]

### Minister Views 'Saboteurs' Damage in Karbala'

*NC1603204091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1941 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] Karbala', 16 Mar (INA)—Health Minister 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id has made an inspection visit to Karbala' Governorate. He told INA the visit was to aquaint himself with the needs of the hospitals in the governorate after saboteurs destroyed property and stole medical equipment.

The minister said the saboteurs attacked the Karbala' Governorate's hospitals including the main hospital, al-Husayni Hospital, and the Maternity Hospital, where they made off with vaccines and medicine.

He emphasized that he was instructed to visit Karbala' by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to ensure that all the governorate's hospitals have access to all medical supplies. He said medical teams with all the necessary equipment have been formed to attend to special cases.

### Regional Command Member Praises Effort in Diyala

*NC1603125891 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 13 Mar 91 p 4*

[By Muwaffaq al-'Anani]

[Text] As our country is involved in efforts to reconstruct what was destroyed by the vile imperialist shelling and is continuing to work day and night to restore electricity to some areas still suffering from faults in electric lines, campaigns are continuing to restore services. The administration is trying to carry out the instructions of leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, to provide the best services for the citizens. During his visit to the Governorate of Diyala, Regional Command member Comrade Mazban Khadr Hadi made a statement to AL-THAWRAH on several topics, including the evil conspiracy against our country and nation, the role played by the masses and their organizations to abort the imperialist-Zionist scheme, and what is required from the administration and citizens to rebuild what was destroyed by the aircraft and missiles of the Zionist and imperialist enemies.

The Regional Command member said: Leader Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, played a prominent and distinguished role in burying and crushing the conspiracy and saving our dear people from evil. The enemies tried to humiliate Iraq, but forgot that the will and steadfastness of a nation led by Saddam Husayn will remain strong in the face of every conspiracy. They also forgot that the true Iraqis are the sons of a deep-rooted civilization, who have played a historic role in establishing the bases of justice and laws at a time when the states of aggression were lost in darkness and ignorance. The enemies' destruction of civilian installations, including a baby milk factory, clearly indicates their hatred of this nation and its civilization.

By remaining steadfast against these evil and tyrannical forces, the sons of Mesopotamia have proved to the whole world that they are deeply committed to their rights and that they are strong in fighting injustice.

Asked by AL-THAWRAH's correspondent in the governorate about the availability of services to the citizens, comrade Mazban said: On the instructions of leader President Saddam Husayn, the authorities have begun to exert more efforts to hasten the provision of services to the citizens. I was pleased by the exceptional efforts exerted by administrative and service authorities in the Governorate of Diyala, led by the governor in order to meet the citizens' requirements for electricity, telephone lines, and water. I have learned that drinking water was provided for the citizens even during the imperialist aggression against our country.

During my meeting with popular organizations and tribes in the governorate, I was very pleased by their sincere nationalism and pride, which epitomize the nobility of the sons of our people. They are standing like a lofty mountain and have expressed, through their chanting and cables to the leader, their love for and loyalty to their homeland and leader and their pledge to defend the homeland. I saw this during my visits to al-Khalis, al-Miqdadiyah, Khanaqin, and Balad Ruz Districts and to the Jalula', al-Sa'diyah, and Mandali Subdistricts, not to mention the center of the governorate. I also must refer proudly to the role of the glorious Iraqi women in remaining steadfast and achieving victory and to their efforts in progress and reconstruction—efforts that are equalled only by their steadfastness in the face of the conspiracy.

Concluding, the Regional Command member thanked the sons of the Governorate of Diyala and conveyed leader President Saddam Husayn's appreciation for their stand during their fight against the enemy of and in their construction campaign.

## Official on Efforts To Provide Water in Baghdad

*NC1603115391 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic
13 Mar 91 p 3*

[By 'Adnan al-Juburi]

[Text] The water authority continues its efforts round the clock to serve the citizens and to provide sufficient water for the various areas.

'Adnan Jabru, director general of the water authority, said this, adding that the reason that only small quantities of water are being pumped to some quarters in Baghdad is the lack of electricity. The diesel-powered pump, which operates the projects, provides only a quarter of the energy.

In a statement to AL-'IRAQ after his meeting with representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] yesterday, the director general of the Water Authority added that water purification and disinfection agents arrived the day before yesterday. He added that during his meeting with ICRC representatives, he discussed matters pertaining to these agents, stressing that Iraq will remain in good condition, thanks to struggler leader Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, who is eager to provide the best services for the sons of our great people who confronted the treacherous aggression to destroy Iraq's economic and environmental infrastructure.

Regarding the pumping of water to several areas of Baghdad, Dr. 'Adnan Jabru said: The water being pumped to these quarters is drinking water, adding that water authority personnel are working hard to provide water for other areas. He said that if water and electricity plants had not been affected, the former pumping capacity would have resumed.

He added that with the cooperation of the concerned elements, which have sustained damage as a result of the shelling, normal life will be restored, God willing.

The director general of the water authority also pledged—on behalf of all workers, the political leadership of the party and revolution led by builder of Iraq's glory, Saddam Husayn—that the workers will continue working hard to provide water for citizens throughout Baghdad, the city of peace.

## Ramadan Inspects Al-Najaf Province, District

*NC1603171091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1620 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, today visited al-Najaf Province. The first deputy prime minister held a meeting attended by the governor of al-Najaf and department officials in the province, and discussed ways to develop the services provided to the citizens. Ramadan said it was necessary to make every effort to develop al-Najaf Province and rebuild what was destroyed by the American-Zionist aggression against the installations and residential neighborhoods in the province. The discussion also dealt with the essential means to develop the [word indistinct] requirements in the province.

The first deputy prime minister toured al-Najaf streets during which he had a firsthand look at the situation of the citizenry and their living conditions.

This morning, Ramadan visited al-Kufah District in al-Najaf Province. He conducted an inspection tour of the district's streets and met with district officials to acquaint himself with the standard of services being provided to the al-Kufah citizens.

### National Assembly Session Set for 20 Mar

*NC1703110391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1050 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen. Here is an announcement: The National Assembly will hold an extraordinary meeting at 1100 [0800 GMT] on Wednesday, 20 March 1991. National Assembly members are kindly requested to attend at the set time.

[Signed] Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the National Assembly.

### Rallying Around Saddam Urged To Save Homeland

*NC1503204891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1733 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Ladies and Gentlemen: [passage indistinct] The homeland is held together by its own symbol around which the sons of the homeland rally. The leader of the homeland is the symbol of this homeland, and rallying around this leader is one of the basic means to safeguard this homeland. True expressions of patriotism are not only reiterated during war through sacrifices, but also through the continued readiness to rebuild what was destroyed by the war. The love of the homeland and safeguarding it require sacrifices for the sake of the homeland. This also requires the presence of a patriotic leader symbol and a high national (?response) for reconstruction.

Iraq, which is considered the first cradle of human civilization, and which enjoyed an Arab and human cultural role throughout the decades in terms of construction and fighting against coveters, is the object of pride for the Iraqi citizen, the lofty, distinguished citizen. Therefore, the Iraqi citizen (?accepts) sacrifices to keep his homeland lofty and dear. And because the people of Iraq possess the national and militant [words indistinct] they only accept a [word indistinct] leader who has a national militant history. [passage indistinct] Therefore, the people love leader Saddam Husayn and rallied around him in the fighting and in rebuilding what was destroyed by the American-Zionist-Atlantic-reactionary war against Iraq. [words indistinct]

The history of the Iraqis is the best evidence on the high patriotic spirit whether in fighting the covetous foreigner regardless of his (?covers), methods, and [word indistinct] or in the reconstruction.

Lofty Iraq, despite the destruction inflicted on the achievements of the 17-30 July revolution as a result of the American-Zionist-Atlantic-reactionary aggression, possesses all the components for economic, social, and military reconstruction.

On the economic level, Iraq possesses the components of its agricultural and industrial awakening, particularly under the big campaign of agriculture which doubled the agricultural areas in the stage that preceded the imposition of the economic blockade. [words indistinct]

On the social level, Iraq, which embarked on a prominent social experiment, will continue this march, particularly since its democratic experiment, multiparty system, the broader freedom of the press, and the new constitution are the bases which the enemies aimed at destroying when they embarked on their disgraceful crime (?since last August).

On the military level, our heroic Army, which aborted the enemies' plot, maintains its full [words indistinct]. It will remain the spearhead in confronting any enemy who tries to encroach on Iraq's sovereignty and [words indistinct].

The sons of great Iraq will turn the next few years into a stage of reconstruction on all levels, particularly since we know that most of what has been destroyed by the enemies was built by the revolution during the last years of the 1970's, particularly in the development plan between (?1976) and 1980. [passage indistinct]

### Paper Attacks Opposition Meeting in Beirut

*NC1603190191 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 14 Mar 91 p 3*

["A Stand" column by Furat al-Jawahiri: "Nasty Smells From the Garbage Can of the Bristol Hotel"]

[Text] Neither the brutal American-Zionist air raids on Iraq's cities and villages, its peaceful and unarmed people, and its children, women, and elderly in shelters, nor the treacherous and savage ground and sea attack—in which the forces of 30 large, medium, and humiliated states participated—have succeeded. All this has not succeeded in affecting Iraqis' determination to follow the path of national independence and to confront foreign ambitions that are hostile to our Arab nation's interests.

During the two-month-long aggression, the American-Zionist-Atlantic alliance used the arsenal that had been built up over the past tens of years to be used in a comprehensive world war that would expose mankind to the threat of annihilation.

Now that Iraq remains a thorn in the eyes of the Zionists and imperialists and after the Iraqis exposed the treachery of the humiliated servants of Zionism and imperialism and inscribed an eternal mark of disgrace on them, the forces that bear a grudge against great Iraq and its heroic leader and symbol of national unity, Saddam Husayn, have moved to carry out a new aggression, which will end ridiculously, like previous ones, before the eyes of the whole world.

Intelligence circles, the espionage networks of every state with a deep-rooted colonialist past in the Arab region, the supporters and servants of the agent regimes affiliated with colonialism in our Arab homeland, and those who are directly or indirectly linked to the Zionist Mosad chose their representatives and delegates, who, ironically, used to bear Arab names or Iraqi nationality, to meet at the Bristol Hotel in Beirut last Monday amid strict security measures.

Nasty and disgusting smells from the garbage can of Beirut's Bristol Hotel filled the place when the treacherous clique arrived there, preceded by their black records, which are known to the millions of Iraqis who are loyal to their homeland, who made sacrifices for it, and who have defended its sanctities.

Every one of those in the Bristol Hotel has a past full of new or old dirty acts of treachery, and not one of them has honorably defended the homeland or served in the military along with his Iraqi brothers in blood.

Many others from the garbage can of the Bristol Hotel were treacherous guides for the foreign occupation forces.

All these people, whom the intelligence and the imperialist-Zionist espionage circles want to affiliate falsely with Iraq and to assemble in the garbage can of the Bristol Hotel, have turned against Iraq and even denied the milk of their mothers.

Those gangs, who eat at the cheap tables of colonialism and Zionism and who wear the clothes of treachery, want to offer Iraq as an easy morsel to a number of disputing and ambitious foreigners.

They want to follow the deformed colonialist hyena only as humiliated servants for a very low price, ridiculing themselves, at the same time, and betraying Iraq and the Iraqis first, second, third, and last.

But Iraq's great people, who refuse to smell the nasty air coming from the Bristol Hotel, are making honest efforts to build glorious Iraq with renewed determination and deep belief in its national unity, and are resolutely rallying around their heroic leader Saddam Husayn.

## Health Minister on Readiness To Talk With Syria

*TA1703201891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] Health Minister Ehud Olmert, speaking in Washington, said that Israel is ready to hold immediate negotiations with Syria on any subject, including territorial issues, pertaining to both parties.

Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Olmert was speaking to the America Israel Public Affairs Committee in place of Prime Minister Shamir, who was unable to attend. Olmert also said that Israel expects the United States to persuade the Arab countries to declare an end to the state of war with Israel and their readiness to hold direct negotiations to achieve peace.

### Ready To Discuss 'Any Claim'

*TA1803070991 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 18 Mar 91*

[Telephone interview with Health Minister Ehud Olmert in Washington by studio anchor Shalom Qital—live]

[Excerpts] [Qital] Good morning to you in Washington, Minister Olmert.

[Olmert] Good morning.

[Qital] You appeared before the America Israel Public Affairs Committee conference, replacing Prime Minister Shamir. Do you believe that, had the prime minister appeared there, he would have phrased the remarks concerning Syria the way you did?

[Olmert] I, of course, would not know; you must ask the prime minister. I believe that my remarks were in line with government policy.

[Qital] Territorial compromise with Syria?

[Olmert] I did not say anything of the sort.

[Qital] What did you say?

[Olmert] I said, more or less, what was reported in the item your correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami filed. As I made the remarks in English, let me repeat them in English: The Syrians will raise territorial demands; they will be negotiated on a mutual basis.

[Qital] According to this, if Syria raises territorial demands, they can be discussed. If they can be discussed, does this not mean that a territorial compromise with the Syrians may be reached?

[Olmert] Theoretically, everything is possible; Israel, however, has a well-known stand concerning the Golan Heights. Naturally, one can assume that if we hold negotiations and the Syrians raise demands, we will discuss them. We will also state our stand and raise our own demands. Otherwise, we would be saying that there is nothing to talk about. We are saying: We are ready to talk. Let each side step forward and present its claims.

[Qital] Yes, but the minute you say territories, this means that we are ready to make concessions, because you are saying: on a mutual basis. What is this mutual basis? Does Israel have territorial claims on Syria?

[Olmert] Israel has a stand. If the Syrians raise their demand to get the Golan back, we will state our position, which is: We are against returning the Golan Heights; we want to continue to hold on to it and continue Israeli rule over it.

Let us stop playing with words. The question must be addressed. We could say that we favor negotiations, but that there are issues about which we are declaring outright that we will not be willing to discuss. For example, if the Syrians raise the Golan issue, we could have said: We favor negotiations with Syria, but beware; if you raise this issue, we will not even discuss it. Is this a serious stand? Can we say this? That is why I believe that our correct and true stand—as I understand it and according to what I believe is the government's stand—is that we are willing to discuss anything, with no preconditions. This means that each side—both theirs and ours—has the right to raise any demand. The willingness to hold negotiations and discuss demands in no way constitutes or even implies an agreement to accept those demands.

[Qital] If everything can be raised, would you repeat your remarks about the Golan in reference to Judaea and Samaria?

[Olmert] The Golan Heights is an issue that will be discussed in a different manner, on a different basis. Judaea and Samaria are included in the Camp David accords. I said that we would be willing to hold negotiations with a Palestinian representation—not the PLO, of course—on the basis of UN Resolutions 242 and 338 in the context of the Camp David accords. I am stressing this because recently, when the Americans or others talk about 242 and 338, they do not mention the Camp David context. In this context we are talking about an interim arrangement that would lead to a permanent agreement in the future. That is why the comparison in this respect is out of place. There is a national consensus in Israel on the need for an interim arrangement with regard to Judaea and Samaria, and what we are offering in this regard is autonomy. This is the framework within which we could hold discussions. Therefore, one cannot draw inferences from the Syrian issue—in which we are dealing with negotiations with a state—to mean anything concerning possible negotiations with an acceptable Palestinian representation on the issue of Judaea and Samaria. [passage omitted]

As I said before, our willingness to enter negotiations includes a readiness to discuss any claim. This is no way includes, nor does it imply, nor did I hint that we are ready for a territorial compromise concerning the Golan Heights. They have a stand; we have ours. We will come to the negotiations, each side will present its demands, and we will discuss them.

[Qital] Thank you, Minister Olmert.

### Shamir's Bureau Comments

*TA1803074391 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 18 Mar 91*

[Excerpts] The prime minister's bureau has said that the government is not considering amending or revoking the Golan Law. Our political correspondent Arye Golan was told that the bureau's announcement was made to remove any doubt concerning remarks made by Health Minister Olmert in Washington. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 18 March adds that Yosi Ahime'ir, who heads the prime minister's bureau, "said this morning that there is nothing unusual in Minister Olmert's remarks. According to Ahime'ir's interpretation of Olmert's remarks, Israel is willing to hold direct negotiations with any country—including Syria—and in such negotiations each side may present its claims. Israel, however, is not obligated to respond. The prime minister's bureau stressed that Olmert's remarks contain no deviation from the government's stand, and what followed them is but a tempest in a teapot."]

Minister David Magen told our correspondent that there is no change in the government's stand on this issue. According to him, the issue was raised in the cabinet nine days ago, and Mr. Shamir made it clear that Israel will not give up the Golan Heights. Magen stressed that Syria must realize that it cannot make claims concerning sovereign Israeli territory. According to him, whoever believes that Syria will come to the negotiating table in the foreseeable future is entertaining an illusion.

Tehiya has said that it would not be part of a government that would be willing to discuss territorial claims, neither with regard to Judaea and Samaria nor the Golan. Tehiya has stressed that the Golan is under Israeli sovereignty; therefore, it would be criminal to be willing to discuss its future. Deputy Minister Ge'ula Kohen this morning called on the prime minister to clarify his stand on the issue.

Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi of Moledet said this morning that Minister Olmert's remarks concerning the Golan Heights demonstrate a lack of national responsibility and do not commit the government.

### Shamir: No Change in Golan Policy

*TA1803104891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 18 Mar 91*

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that the government has a clear stand concerning the Golan, and it has no intention of changing the Golan Law. Addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, the prime minister downplayed the importance of Minister Olmert's remarks in Washington and refrained from reprimanding him. The prime minister noted that, once Minister Olmert returns to Israel, Shamir will hear his explanations. This was reported by our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1030 GMT on 18 March adds: "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, through the head of his bureau, Yosi Ahime'ir, asked the heads of the local councils on the Golan Heights to deliver a clear message to the residents of the Golan: Israel has no intention of giving up territory on the Golan Heights during future negotiations with Syria."]

Interior Minister Arye Der'i said that he does not object to the Syrians setting up their own settlements on the Golan Heights side by side with Israeli ones, in return for a true peace. According to him, Israel should state only two conditions concerning the Golan Heights: not evacuating Jewish settlements and demilitarizing the region.

### Declares 'Not Happy'

*TA1803134091 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1235 GMT 18 Mar 91*

[Text] I am not happy with Minister Ehud Olmert's remarks, said Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir after today's meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. The Israeli position is that the Golan Heights are part of the State of Israel, said Shamir, and there is a law to this effect.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] I am not happy, because his remarks made work for me: Now I have to explain things he said and things he did not say. However, I see no deviation from principles in his remarks. What he meant to say was that, for instance, if they say during negotiations: We want the Golan Heights, we will reply: You cannot have them. This means negotiating, if you wish.

[Unidentified reporter] Then what is up for discussion with the Syrians?

[Shamir] All kinds of things: peace, ways to achieve peace, economic cooperation; there are lots of things. I do not know of many countries willing to conduct negotiations over territories which belong to them; I know of no such instance in the whole world. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1255 GMT on 18 March reports that after the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting Shamir said that "Olmert's remarks were not agreed on with him in advance, but he understands their meaning. The report quotes Shamir as saying: "He meant to say what we always say: Israel is willing to conduct negotiations without preconditions with every Arab country. This is all he meant."]

### Shamir Aide Ben-Aharon Comments

*TA1803102891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0815 GMT 18 Mar 91*

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Razi Barqay on the "It's All Talk" program—live]

[Text] [Barqay] Yosi Ben-Aharon is on the line. Good day to you.

[Ben-Aharon] Shalom.

[Barqay] Has Ge'ula Kohen called yet?

[Ben-Aharon] Why, because she is worried about the Golan Heights?

[Barqay] Sure.

[Ben-Aharon] No. Do you really believe we are going to give up any part of the Golan Heights?

[Barqay] Judging from Minister Olmert's remarks, this is something to be discussed.

[Ben-Aharon] Mr. Barqay. Let me ask you, you are an old hand at this, do you believe that Ehud Olmert, who is in Washington to address the Jewish lobby, would make a declaration there that could mean a change in Israeli policy?

[Barqay] So it is all verbal trickery?

[Ben-Aharon] There is no trickery. I believe that whoever filed the report should have taken the whole speech, viewed the context in which the remarks on the Golan Heights were made, and realized that what Olmert wanted to explain is that we make no preconditions on anything. We are willing to negotiate everything. The Syrians may raise whatever they want. We adhere to our stand: direct negotiations without preconditions.

[Barqay] I must ask you about this business of no preconditions: The Syrians may raise whatever they wish, but once they raise this issue we would get up and leave, right?

[Ben-Aharon] No, we do not have to get up and leave. If they really come to negotiate with us, it means they recognize our right to exist as a state in the Middle East. This in itself would be a revolutionary change in the Syrian stand. This would also mean that they are willing to meet us part of the way, and then we would have things to talk about. After all, we have parallel interests, such as Lebanon. If they really want to change their attitude toward the superpowers, for example—and this is also one of the indications, because they see that they can no longer lean on the USSR, since it is not what it used to be—if they want to get closer to the United States, Israel is a channel. There is a whole range of topics that we can discuss, and with which we could reach some understanding with Syria, even if its territorial demands are not satisfied.

[Barqay] Did the prime minister ask for the precise transcript of Olmert's speech there?

[Ben-Aharon] The prime minister did not. When he saw that the media were making an issue of it, making headlines, he wished to clarify the situation concerning the Golan Heights and its legal status.

[Barqay] Did they talk on the phone?

[Ben-Aharon] I do not know.

[Barqay] Meaning, a tempest in a teapot?

[Ben-Aharon] Yes. Look, it makes headlines, but people in Israel are already used to this. They know that this is no way to introduce changes in our policy. Talking about it on the radio, making phone calls to the United States and so on makes the day interesting.

[Barqay] I believe there is more to it. In recent weeks, since the Gulf war started and Syria joined the coalition, there is different talk in the Likud, among its leaders, concerning some kind of contacts with the Syrians on the Golan Heights. Meaning, there is no absolute nyet.

[Ben-Aharon] I did not hear any responsible person in the government speaking, as you say, about the Golan Heights. About talking with the Syrians, yes, as there is an indication of some change of tone—such a thing would compel us, because we sincerely desire peace, even with Syria. If the U.S. secretary of state tells us that he detected some change and differences in the Syrian position, we have to see this through; we have to make sure that there is something in this. We have to see whether it is really possible to go to negotiations and that everything is open. Reaching a conclusion, however, that because there is some change in mood we are changing our stand on such a cardinal issue, which is so essential to Israel's security, is still a bit farfetched.

[Barqay] Just as Eretz Yisra'el is dear to your heart not just because of security reasons, but also for historical reasons, you have no Biblical affiliations with the Golan Heights. It is in essence a pragmatic-defensive position. Am I right?

[Ben-Aharon] Are you questioning me? I am a civil servant, I get paid, I am not a politician, nor was I elected to my post. I only carry out the government's policy, which is what the Knesset stipulated: The Golan Heights is territory under Israel's rule and sovereignty.

[Barqay] Mr. Ben-Aharon, you know what I mean. I mean that as far as the Golan Heights are concerned, the debate lacks emotion. It is purely defensive, and therefore it is possible that even you believe that if we say that we will withdraw 10 or 15 km, Israel's security interests will not be affected.

[Ben-Aharon] You are again trying to drag me into negotiations with you. This is such an important topic. I had the opportunity of witnessing negotiations that Kissinger held in 1973 and again in 1975 concerning the disengagement agreements. Every 100 meters were essential then, and you are familiar with the territory here. There are hills that overlook the whole terrain. Every square mile has strategic importance. That is why this is an issue we must set aside until the negotiations come, and then, as I said, if there is a Syrian willingness to recognize the State of Israel and hold peace agreement negotiations with it, the Syrians are allowed to raise any subject.

[Barqay] Mr. Prime Minister's Office director general, as far as you know, Yitzhaq Shamir's stand concerning the Syrians was and still is: with Syria it is peace for peace, and nothing else.

[Ben-Aharon] With Syria, peace negotiations without preconditions.

[Barqay] Thank you, Sir.

[Ben-Aharon] Thank you.

### Military Sources on Syrian Strategy

*TA0703214091 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 7 Mar 91*

[Report by army affairs correspondent Amir Fink]

[Text] Military sources said that the Gulf war brought about several changes in the relations between Syria, the United States, and the EC. The sources estimated that Syria would soon be written off the U.S. list of countries that sponsor terrorism, and this would lead to the opening of new options for the Syrians. Egypt is the one leading Syria toward this process and this has led to an increase in Syria's confidence.

The sources asserted that Syria has recently moderated its position regarding negotiations techniques, but has not given up even one iota of its principles, which include the transfer of the Golan Heights back to Syrian sovereignty and the bestowing of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Syria is continuing to stockpile arms. During the last visit of Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas to Moscow, a new arms deal was discussed. The military sources confirmed that North Korea supplied upgraded Scud missiles to Syria with a 500 km range and with a higher degree of accuracy than the ordinary Scud. The military sources claimed that the Syrians intend to station the launchers bearing these missiles north of Damascus so that in a war they will be able to strike at central Israel with only a slight probability that Israel would be able to strike back at them. The sources reported that these are mobile launchers that are different than those of the regular Scud missile. These missiles can also be outfitted with the chemical warheads in Syria's possession. The sources pointed out that Syria is aiming to achieve a domestic capability to produce surface-to-surface missiles.

The military sources stressed that the Arab countries, including Syria, are well aware of Israel's capabilities. They asserted that Syria considers Israel's restraint during the Gulf war to have been a sophisticated policy that gained Israel the political and financial support of the international community as well as the supply of Patriot missiles. The sources maintained that in order to gauge the future Iraqi threat, the final war agreements must first be consolidated with the hope that they will include clauses limiting the future supply of weapons to Iraq. The arms market is wide open, however, and one can assume that North Korea and perhaps even the PRC will try to help Iraq recover.

The military sources said that one spy satellite is a partial solution and that Israel will have to have more than one satellite. A country with a spy satellite will be capable of photographing any point in the region, and such a satellite will no doubt be able to supply answers to many questions about which we currently find it difficult to receive information.

### Cabinet Views Immigration, Regional Conference

*TA1703120691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] The first weekly cabinet meeting since Baker's visit to Israel dealt with a wide range of issues. One of the top items was the holdup in the immigration of Ethiopian Jews to Israel. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir promised to act personally to renew the wave of immigration from Ethiopia. Immigrant Absorption Minister Yitzhaq Peretz said after leaving the cabinet meeting that everything was being done to settle the problem:

[Begin Peretz recording] All I can say is that the official bodies are dealing with the issue through every possible means in order to speed up the exodus of Ethiopian Jews. There are difficulties which we cannot go into in the media. What I can say with certainty is that it is definitely not Israeli officials who are preventing or disturbing the exodus of the Jews. On the contrary, the Israeli bodies, including the Prime Minister's Office, are making all possible efforts to bring the Ethiopian Jewish community to Israel and to look after their safety there. [end recording]

The prime minister summed up the visit by Secretary of State Baker to Israel. The only new thing reported was that President Bush is to visit the region, but that the date is still unknown.

Minister David Magen said that before President Bush's arrival, the U.S. soldiers in Israel should be thanked and sent home. Minister Magen called on the United States to act to get the Arab economic boycott and the UN resolutions equating Zionism with racism canceled.

Minister Moshe Qatzav said on leaving the debate that it was clear to the cabinet that the United States would not act to advance the political process without coordinating with us:

[Begin Qatzav recording] As far as we know, the new ideas, if they exist, will be coordinated and there will be no surprises for the State of Israel. Anyway, Israel is a very active partner in looking for ways for a breakthrough. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 17 March also carries an interview with Minister Moshe Qatzav after the cabinet session. Asked whether the notion of a regional conference would be raised in the talks with President Bush when he visits the Middle East next month, or whether the idea was raised last week in the talks with Secretary of State James Baker, Qatzav says: "The idea has not come up, not by Baker either. If it is raised, there would definitely be several preconditions which would have to be settled before we proceed to deal with the main notion." Asked what these preconditions would be, Qatzav says: "When talking about a regional conference, the question that comes up is who would be the parties participating in it, what would be the status of the superpowers, what weight would be carried by those superpowers who do not maintain diplomatic relations with Israel, and what would the topics be. These are the questions which would definitely come up when talking about a regional conference. If it is a question of bilateral direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab states, there would be no need for preliminary discussions or any preconditions."]

Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo reported about overcoming terrorist acts. In that context Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi said it was only a question of time before the territories are closed again because of murders. It was a mistake to reopen them, he said. Ze'evi said that a forecast unemployment level of 240,000 reinforced his position.

On another issue, the chief of staff and defense minister raised, on their own initiative, reports that some of the gas masks distributed to the public are ineffective. The two totally denied these reports.

## Views Baker Visit, Arab Stance

*TA1703161391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stressed at today's cabinet session that Israel is only at the threshold of the political process and that negotiations are still at an early stage. Against the background of those statements, the cabinet held a debate to sum up the visit of the U.S. secretary of state to Israel.

The prime minister and the defense establishment sources who presented a briefing, in the absence of Foreign Minister Levi, reported that the United States is ready to move according to the two-track method, while stressing the need for confidence-building measures such as the abrogation of the Arab boycott, the revocation of the UN resolution equating Zionism with racism, the reopening of universities in the territories, and more. The Americans said that they have ruled out 'Arafat as an interlocutor and that they will maintain the suspension of the PLO while continuing to search for Palestinian interlocutors in the territories. Israel has received the impression that Washington is a long way from renewing the dialogue with the PLO. [passage omitted]

The cabinet was told Israel believes that Baker's meetings in Syria did not lead to much progress and that Baker and his Syrian hosts found themselves less in agreement on ways to further the peace process than was the case in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf emirates. The United States and Syria differed mainly on the issue of terrorism and on the Syrian interpretation of UN Resolution 242, an interpretation claiming that there must be a prior Israeli withdrawal. Israel, it was said during the cabinet session, is exerting efforts on the U.S. Administration to secure U.S. opposition to the decision currently being formulated by the Security Council calling for an international conference on the Middle East.

When in Israel, Baker spoke of a sense of greater moderation in the Arab countries, but Israel's position asserts that the major test of the readiness of the Arab states would be the issuing of a public statement to the Arab nation saying that they are willing to negotiate with Israel on the basis of mutual recognition. It was further reported in today's cabinet session that there were discussions with Baker regarding the inclusion of Jordan in the political process, albeit at an undefined stage, and it was learned that Lebanon has also expressed its desire to participate in the talks.

The ministers were told that President Bush will visit Israel. The date is still not known, however, and no diplomatic information regarding the matter has been received. [passage omitted]

## Sharon: Apply State Law to Territories

*TA1703162691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon at today's cabinet session demanded that Israeli law be applied to the areas of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip that are inhabited by Jews. Sharon said that this is the only way to prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state in the territories.

Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports that Sharon suggested that his fellow ministers tour the territories and see the danger inherent in the establishment of a Palestinian state.

## Shamir Wants Public Arab Statements

*TA1703201491 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] The cabinet was today told that Syria demands a commitment for an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights before it will agree to enter negotiations. This was what James Baker was told in Damascus.

Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Halperin reports that the cabinet was also briefed on President Bush's visit to Israel next month and on the upcoming visit of U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney, which will come before that. During the cabinet session, the prime minister said that if the Soviet Union reestablishes full diplomatic relations with Israel it could be a partner to the negotiations process.

As for the encouraging signs Baker discovered while visiting the Arab members of the coalition, Mr. Shamir pointed out that similar statements had been made in the past, but they were always uttered—and are still being made—behind closed doors. Shamir said that it was important that the Arab states make these declarations public.

## U.S. Levi Support Termed 'Blatant Intervention'

*TA1803095591 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew*
*18 Mar 91 p A2*

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Excerpts] According to a report sent to Jerusalem by the Israeli Embassy in Luxembourg, Robert Kimmitt, under secretary of state for political affairs, has called on senior Western diplomats in Europe to do everything they can to "cultivate" David Levi in favor of Yitzhaq Shamir. [passage omitted]

Kimmitt emphasized that Shamir, as opposed to Levi, voices rigid positions. He therefore believes Levi should be cultivated in order to enhance his standing in Israel's domestic arena.

Political sources in Jerusalem take a very serious view of the U.S. diplomat's remarks, saying they constitute blatant intervention in Israel's internal affairs.

According to these sources, these remarks show that the Americans have not learned from their past experience, when they tried to exploit the difference in the approaches of the Alignment and the Likud and ultimately contributed to strengthening the right wing. [passage omitted]

## Notables Threatened PLO To Meet Baker Secretly

*TA1303152491 Jerusalem Israel Television Network*
*in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Mar 91*

[Text] Our correspondent has learned that some notables in the territories threatened PLO activists in Tunis that should the PLO not allow them to meet with Secretary of State James Baker publicly, the meeting with him would be held secretly because they are not ready to waste the opportunity a dialogue aimed at achieving peace. After long discussions, the PLO agreed on this and gave permission for the notables to meet with James Baker.

## Katyushas Ready To Fire During Baker Visit

*TA1303125891 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew*
*13 Mar 91 p A14*

[Report by Yehuda Goren]

[Text] The katyusha that was fired by mistake by the SLA [South Lebanese Army] yesterday landed in the security zone in southern Lebanon near the Israeli border fence along the Galilee Panhandle. No one was hurt.

SLA soldiers discovered two katyusha launchers aimed at Israel yesterday morning. They were apparently positioned by terrorists to fire during U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to the north. To the surprise of the soldiers, as they were dismantling the launchers, a katyusha rocket was activated by mistake and hit Israel. The second launcher was safely dismantled.

## PLO's Abu-Sharif Criticizes Faysal Al-Husayni

*TA1503181291 Jerusalem Israel Television Network*
*in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] In an interview published today in the London-based newspaper AL-HAYAT, Bassam Abu-Sharif, Yasir 'Arafat's media adviser, leveled harsh criticism at Faysal al-Husayni, director of the Arab Studies Society in East Jerusalem. Palestinian sources in London said that this criticism is the first of its kind and stems from internal Palestinian differences over the meeting with James Baker and Abu-Sharif's recent statements.

## Ethiopia Halts Emigration in Quest for Gas, Arms

*TA1103104191 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST*
*in English 11 Mar 91 pp 1, 10*

[Report by Herb Keinon]

[Excerpts] Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile-Mariam has ordered a halt to emigration of Jews in order to negotiate with Israel for gasoline and arms for his besieged army, a source closely involved with bringing Ethiopian Jewry here said yesterday.

The source, basing himself on talks with American diplomats, said the U.S., which has long been at odds with the Mengistu government, has asked Israel to refrain from sending supplies to the Ethiopians. [passage omitted]

The political counselor at the Ethiopian embassy denied this, saying, "We are not selling people, not letting them go in exchange for anything. We are letting them go as part of a program of reunification of families, as a humanitarian gesture."

He said that he had not been told that the emigration had stopped, and stressed it had only been held up for "technical reasons."

An official at the Foreign Ministry also attributed the halt to "technical reasons," and said it is necessary to wait a few days to see what develops before drawing conclusions. He said that the Ethiopian capital is facing severe shortages that are making the transport of Jews very difficult, and that there is not enough fuel for military vehicles, let alone a plane-load of Jews. [passage omitted]

### Administrative Efforts Under Way

*TA1603205791 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1915 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] The Jewish Agency is making great efforts to satisfy the Ethiopian Government's demands on the paperwork related to Jewish immigration. This was reported to our correspondent Yuli Ofeq in reaction to the reports coming from Ethiopia regarding irregularities in the paperwork. The Jewish Agency asserted that it had sent 10 employees, mostly immigrants from Ethiopia, to handle the documentation, and that they are already in Addis Ababa. Our correspondent learned that the Ethiopian Government has already been exploiting the issue of paperwork as a means of regulating immigration. Approximately 15,000 Jews in Addis Ababa are still waiting to immigrate.

### 'Weapons for Jews' Deal Denied

*TA1703210091 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Interview with Uri Lubrani, representative of the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry handling the immigration of Jews from Ethiopia, by political correspondent 'Imanu'el Halperin—live]

[Text] [Halperin] Good evening, Mr. Lubrani.

[Lubrani] Good evening.

[Halperin] Have you received any clear promise from the Ethiopian authorities that the immigration of Jews from Ethiopia will resume, and if so at what rate?

[Lubrani] It was not I who received that promise, but rather the Israeli ambassador in Addis Ababa, who handled the matter. I think that we today have good grounds to assume that in the upcoming days we shall once more witness planes arriving with immigrants from Ethiopia. There were some difficulties, but I think we have now overcome them.

[Halperin] Is it true that the Ethiopians, or Mengistu, tried to get some weapons or aid from Israel in return for the Jews?

[Lubrani] I would like to be very clear regarding that matter. There was never any deal of weapons for Jews. I was personally present when the Ethiopian president made it unequivocally clear to me, acting as the prime minister's representative, and to a representative of the U.S. Government, that he considers the reunification of the families of the Ethiopian Falashas with their families in Israel to be a humane and humanitarian process that has no connection with any bilateral problems between us and Ethiopia.

[Halperin] In other words the holdup was technical, as the Ethiopians claimed?

[Lubrani] There are technical difficulties, and there are also problems in the dialogue between the two sides. This is a very complex and convoluted process. There are also emotional problems involved. One must understand that we are dealing with an Ethiopian bureaucracy, and I use the term bureaucracy not in its negative sense. There is an Ethiopian bureaucracy that we must learn to deal with. They are used to certain processes; they work at a certain speed. We, as usual, do not have enough patience and are trying to rush them. This undoubtedly is a process that we must learn to accept and work with, and we must overcome every difficulty. This is not an impossible task.

[Halperin] Mr. Lubrani, if the rebels eventually win, what kind of fate can the Jews in Addis Ababa expect? Will the immigration stop?

[Lubrani] Above all, I hope it will not stop. I think that we should make every effort to keep the process going. The rebel activity in Ethiopia is not new. Ethiopia has been in a state of internal strife for many years—sometimes in more distress, sometimes less. It is true that recently several factors have combined and led to a deterioration in the situation. We must above all view the matter from one aspect: We must do everything to keep this immigration going and to do everything necessary—and I repeat, everything necessary—to be ready to confront the possibilities of anything worse happening in Addis Ababa and to be sure that nothing of the kind will happen here.

[Halperin] Thank you and good evening, Sir.

### Talks With Egypt on Palestinian Delegation Denied

*TA1803100191 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Mar 91 p 1*

[Report by political correspondent Hemi Shalev]

[Text] A senior Foreign Ministry official has categorically denied the report on Monte Carlo Radio about Israeli-Egyptian contacts to arrange a meeting with Palestinians in the territories. The official said that, since the end of the Gulf war, there have been no contacts between Israel and Egypt concerning the formation of a Palestinian delegation. Consequently, there has been no Egyptian refusal to comply with such an Israeli request, as the Radio Monte Carlo report would have it. The official went on to say that Radio Monte Carlo has recently been airing numerous false reports in a bid to drive a wedge between Israel and Egypt.

## Dumas Regrets Cancellation of Levi Paris Visit

*TA1703211791 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Excerpt] French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas sent a letter to Foreign Minister David Levi in which he expressed his regret over the cancellation of Minister Levi's trip to Paris this week. The visit was called off as a result of Israel's displeasure over the readiness of the French to host Yasir 'Arafat.

Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts reports that in his letter, Dumas asserts that President Mitterrand and he himself would be very interested in hearing Levi's opinions on the eve of the EEC summit that will convene at France's initiative to discuss the Middle East peace process. [passage omitted]

## Arabs Allowed Into All Areas Within Green Line

*TA1703060491 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Report by police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum]

[Text] The ban on Arabs from the territories entering Tel Aviv and Haifa was lifted this morning concurrently with the lifting of the ban on entry into Jerusalem. The police are ready for the new situation whereby Arabs are allowed to enter all areas within the Green Line. Regular roadblocks have been reinforced and new ones have been set up, particularly on the outskirts of the big cities. Patrols have been instructed to increase the number of spot checks of Arab workers and their belongings.

Arabs have been banned from central Israel and Haifa since the beginning of the Gulf war, lest people take it out on them for the firing of missiles. The removal of this restriction comes with several conditions: Arabs from the territories will be allowed to stay within the Green Line only until 1900; only those holding work permits from the official labor exchange will be allowed in; and Jewish employers are responsible for organizing the transportation of workers to and from work.

Entry into Jerusalem was banned by the police commissioner immediately after the murder of four women in Qiryat Yovel, exactly one week ago. Roadblocks were removed last Wednesday as a result of a misunderstanding that attributed the ban to Secretary Baker's visit, but since Thursday policemen and soldiers in the capital once again enforced the ban. Police headquarters is aware that the return of laborers from the territories to the big cities is a highly sensitive issue, particularly in the wake of the murder of the women in Jerusalem. Consequently, senior police officers would like to accelerate an amendment to the law whereby Jewish employers would be held responsible for employing Arab laborers who have no permits to stay and work within the Green Line. Those employers would be brought to trial, while the Arab laborers would be arrested. The Army would return them to their places of residence, where they would be brought to trial.

## Talks With FRG for Third Patriot Launcher

*TA1103100491 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Mar 91 p 1*

[ITIM report]

[Text] Israel is negotiating with Germany for a third Patriot missile launcher, the outgoing chief of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] planning, Maj.-Gen. Dani Yatom, told military reporters yesterday. The Germans have agreed to give Israel the launcher, he said. German aid to Israel is estimated at the equivalent of $900m., Yatom said. Requests for additional aid from Bonn are in the pipeline.

## Papal Delegation Visits, Denies Change in Policy

*TA1003204191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 Mar 91*

[Excerpt] A delegation on behalf of Pope John Paul II, led by the director of the Vatican's official travel and tourism organization, arrived in Israel yesterday. The visit is being made under the slogan: Delegation of the Torch of Peace and Solidarity From the Vatican to Jerusalem. The delegation members today placed the torch in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem's Old City. Our correspondent Nitzan Hen reports:

Pope John Paul II hopes to visit Jerusalem when conditions permit. A message in this spirit was brought by the Vatican delegation, along with a torch that had been lit by John Paul II in Rome and was placed today in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, a symbol of peace between Jews, Muslims, and Christians. Monsignor (Liberio Andriatta), the pope's envoy, stated that at this stage there is no question of a change in the Vatican's policy or even recognition of the State of Israel. The purpose of our visit, Monsignor (Andriatta) added, is to demonstrate the fraternity and friendship between the faiths, instead of the hatred and division that have increased in the wake of the Gulf war. [passage omitted]

### Prince Hasan Says Bush, King Should Meet Soon

*NC1503225491 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan has emphasized the importance of establishing a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, considering the importance of this region for the world. In an interview with the U.S. CNN Television Network, he said that we in Jordan, as a responsible state in this part of the world, are very worried about the region's future.

In response to a question on the possibility of His Majesty King Husayn's visiting Washington, Crown Prince Hasan said: I believe that a meeting should take place at the highest level between the two countries as quickly as possible, because we must all define a way of addressing the region's issues to guaranteee security and stability for all parties. He pointed out that the issue of a meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and President George Bush is up to the two leaders. I believe, however, that they have to decide whether to meet in Washington or elsewhere. I believe that convening such a meeting is necessary at some stage, because we cannot continue to show understanding through signals, particularly since peace must be established in this region within a year.

Responding to a question on the U.S. secretary of state's tour of the region, Crown Prince Hasan said: That tour was within the framework of the partners in the coalition. The crown prince said that he will visit the United Kingdom, Canada, and certain U.S. cities to speak on the situation in the region, noting that Washington will not be on his itinerary for the time being.

Crown Prince Hasan said that Jordan recently received the Canadian foreign secretary, the European troika ministers, and the British minister of state for foreign affairs. He stressed that there is understanding of the Jordanian role in the current stage.

Asked about the PLO's role in any future negotiations, the crown prince said: The PLO is the symbol of the Palestinian people's political struggle, since the PLO represents the Palestinian people. I believe that the Palestinians living in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip who meet with foreign delegations affirm that the the PLO is the symbol of the Palestinian people.

Asked about the conditions of Palestinians in Kuwait, the crown prince said: We have reports from the Amnesty International Committee noting that the Palestinians are very worried about their future. I believe that this is part of the suffering and shock resulting from the situation in Kuwait. He said that a large number of Palestinians are linked to Kuwait, and whose presence there has spanned two or more generations. I hope that they will be able to exercise their rights. Concluding his interview, he expressed his optimism that all issues of the region will be addressed in such a way as to ensure stability and security in it and the world.

### Leaves for Visit to Canada, UK

*NC1603125691 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Excerpt] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Her Highness Princess Tharwat left Amman this morning on a working visit to the United Kingdom and Canada. His highness will meet with ranking offcials in both countries for talks on the current situation in the region and issues of mutual interest. During his visit to the United Kingdom, his highness will deliver a lecture at Oxford University on the economic and social impact of the Gulf crisis in Jordan.

Following his visit to Canada, his highness will pay a private visit to San Fransisco. He will deliver a speech at a conference that will be held there next week to discuss the substitutes for security, development, and cooperation in the Middle East region in the post-Gulf war stage. [passage omitted]

### Islamic Jihad Members, Leader's Sons Arrested

*NC1703124591 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] In a statement to AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE in Amman today, the Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt-al-Maqdis said that the Jordanian authorities arrested some members of this fundamentalist Islamic movement. The statement said the Jordanian security organization's storming operations included the house of the movement's leader, Shaykh As'ad al-Tamimi. While not divulging the number of those arrested, the statement said that they included the sons of al-Tamimi.

The Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt-al-Maqdis is especially active in the occupied territory. It has claimed credit for many anti-Israeli attacks, including an attack in Egypt and another on the Egyptian-Israeli border. The movement has not claimed responsibility for any operations from Jordanian territory, however.

### Red Crescent Delegation Returns From Baghdad

*NC1703151591 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Mar 91 p 3*

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—A delegation representing the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) has returned to Amman following a visit to Iraq and talks with officials from the Iraqi National Red Crescent Society headed by the society's President Ibrahim al-Nuri.

The head of the delegation, Muhammad al-Hadid, said that questions related to facilitating the arrival and distribution of relief supplies in Iraq were discussed at the meetings. Matters related to cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross and other humanitarian organisations were also discussed.

Mr. al-Hadid said that his team carried 115 tonnes of medicine, medical equipment and food supplies to Iraq during the visit.

He said that the Iraqis were in need of huge amounts of medicine and food supplies due to the shortage caused by the sanctions imposed on Iraq.

He also said that there was fear of epidemics resulting from the lack of pure potable water and sewerage services. He said that he toured various parts of the Iraqi capital and examined the health situation there.

## House Deputies Divided Over U.S. Statement

*JN1403132491 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14-15 Mar 91 pp 1, 5*

[Excerpts] Amman—Jordan Wednesday strongly criticised the new U.S. approach to tackling the Palestinian problem in the aftermath of the Gulf war, saying the rejection of the principle of holding an international conference and attempts to replace such forum with bilateral contacts and disengaging the Palestinian problem form the wider Arab-Israeli conflict and not dealing with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) directly are very regrettable.

"To our extreme regret we see the U.S. still rejecting the principle of a peace conference and looking for alternative solutions including bilateral talks between concerned parties, disengaging the Arab-Israeli conflict from a solution to the Palestine issue, and it still refuses to deal with the PLO," Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri said in a statement he read at a regular session of the Lower House of Parliament. [passage omitted]

During Wednesday's session of the Lower House, deputies were divided over the American statement on the Palestinian problem.

The 22-member Muslim Brotherhood rejected President Bush's statement as deception and renewed its call for the liberation of all of Palestine.

But a dozen other independent deputies hailed the call and said they supported Jordan's belief that an international peace conference provided the best venue for settling the conflict.

## Deputy: Jews Have 'No Right at All' in Palestine

*NC1503125191 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 Mar 91 p 2*

[Text] Amman—Deputy Dr. Ahmad al-Kawfahi has stated that the Muslim Brotherhood views the United States as a force that is completely biased toward the arrogant Jewish enemy and that wants to expand and destroy us as a civilization and a nation.

In a statement to Finnish Television, he added: We know that our enemies are the Jews, who are also the sworn enemy of all humanity, who are opportunists, and who see no equal rights for other people, because they believe in the superstition that they are God's chosen people.

Therefore, we see Baker's visit as camouflage and deception designed to provide eternal protection for the Jewish existence and to control the official positions in the Arab world, especially those of the countries that supported them in the Gulf crisis.

We can say that the whole of Palestine from the sea to the river is Islamic Arab land, and that the Jews have no right at all to exist in Palestine. Accordingly, we consider the Jews who settled in Palestine before work began to establish the Zionist entity in Palestine, beginning with Kemal Ataturk's assumption of power in Turkey and the dismissal of Sultan 'Abd-al-Hamid II, as citizens equally entitled to life and to all rights enjoyed by the Muslim and Christian Arabs.

The trick of exchanging peace for land is only a desperate attempt to split Arab and Palestinian ranks and to eliminate the policy of the rifle at a time when the Jews do not understand any language other than that of force. In practice, it should be clear that we will stand with all our energy against capitulatory and liquidatory plans, which assume that Palestine is only a simple figure that can be easily divided into two parts.

We are working hard to end the Jewish occupation and to oppose all American, European, Arab, and even Palestinian attempts to recognize the Jews' existence as a state and entity in any part of Palestine's land.

Deputy al-Kawfahi said: In principle, we reject the establishment of a Palestinian state and we do not believe in half solutions to this issue.

## Al-Masri on Protection of Nationals in Kuwait

*JN1403102591 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14-15 Mar 91 p 1*

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Jordan has received no official confirmation of media reports of mistreatment of Jordanians and Palestinians in Kuwait but has, however, taken measures to contain the problem if it exists, Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri told Parliament Wednesday.

Replying to deputies' question over the credibility of such reports, Mr. al-Masri said: "Jordan has no official information on these incidents, especially that it has no official representation in Kuwait and no direct contact."

But, he said, His Majesty King Husayn has already met with the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to discuss the situation of Jordanians in Kuwait and their safety.

"We have also contacted embassies whose countries are represented in Kuwait and their response was that they would not accept such incidents if they were taking place and that they would follow up on the reports," Mr. al-Masri explained.

The International Red Cross has been contacted by Jordan "and they expressed concern over the issue and have sent urgent messages on it," he said.

"We have heard reports quoting Kuwaitis saying that the status of Jordanians and Palestinians in Kuwait would not change, but that there were individual incidents during the chaos period that followed the war which had to be dealt with," Mr. al-Masri added.

The foreign minister pledged to continue working on the issue and expressed hope that contact with Kuwait would be resumed soon to enable Jordan to "undertake practical steps to protect Jordanians and Palestinians as the situation requires."

### Editorial Warns of U.S. 'Conspiracies' in Region

*NC1503135491 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Mar 91 pp 1, 12*

[Editorial: "The American-French Summit and the New Conspiracy"]

[Text] Bush and his allies are conducting extensive and dangerous activity on the international scene at present. While an American-French summit conference is being held in "Fort-de-France" in the Antilles Islands, extensive talks are being held in Moscow between the U.S. secretary of state and Soviet leaders.

This suspicious move is being made to discuss the world situation in the aftermath of the Gulf war and how to rearrange this situation in accordance with Bush's plan to establish a new international order.

As a result of current talks and statements, we can say that there is a deliberate and premeditated concentration on the need to rearrange the Middle East situation in general and the Arabian Gulf situation in particular.

What attracts one's attention is that the task of rearranging the situation in the Arab region and the whole world is confined only to America and its allies without the participation of any Third Word country or the countries of what is called the South.

This proves that President Bush and his allies are about to impose a new international order against the will of the nations of the world and in the interest of American and Western colonialism.

It is clear that there is a premeditated conspiracy along the line of Sykes-Picot to divide the world in a new way to ensure American hegemony and control over all nations of the world. The new post-war era is, however, full of surprises not expected by Bush and his allies. It may be pregnant with security explosions, wars, and regional disputes that will preoccupy the world for a long time.

Not all peoples and nations, however, are ready to accept American hegemony, the confiscation of their freedom and sovereignty, or the use of all their economic future and potential in the interest of American colonialism, because nations want to bridge, not to widen, the gap between north and south.

For example, the Arab nation will not accept the trusteeship of any party whatsoever, including the United States. They will never submit to the American will and they will not allow American, Western, and other companies to plunder Arab wealth. Nor will other peoples and nations accept American or Western trusteeship.

Although the Malta summit between Bush and Gorbachev drew up a new concept or formula for the world, it is not easy to translate this concept or formula into concrete action. Bush and his allies will be very wrong if they believe that they can implement their new conspiracies without igniting destructive wars and disputes.

### Paper Assesses 'Failure' of Baker-Israel Talks

*NC1503033391 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Mar 91 pp 1, 14*

[Editorial: "U.S. Proposals Fall Between Arab Welcome and Israeli Rejection"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's tour of the region and his visit to Moscow may give the impression that the Bush administration seeks a rapid solution to the Arab Israeli conflict and the Palestine question.

The Jerusalem meeting between Baker and the Palestinian delegation may also give the impression to Arab and international public opinion that there is flexibility in the U.S. position toward the PLO, and that there are signs the United States has recognized the need to implement international legitimacy and the principle of "land for peace" on the basis of Resolutions Nos. 242 and 338.

We can understand the PLO's reasons for welcoming these signs.

We can also understand the reasons Jordan, in the person of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, welcomed flexibility in the U.S. position toward the PLO and the U.S. proposals based on international legitimacy and Resolutions Nos. 242 and 338.

In its tenacious efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, Jordan has based its approach on international legitimacy and the holding of an international peace conference, and it has repeatedly stressed these points in its response to the initiatives of any side, including the United States.

Although the U.S. proposals received a wide Arab welcome, the prospects for peace are not good. Reports from occupied Palestine clearly indicate that Baker's talks with the Tel Aviv rulers ended in failure.

Shamir and David Levi rejected Bush's proposals as soon as they were announced. This alone indicates that Israel will continue to oppose any peaceful settlement that calls for its withdrawal from Arab occupied territories and recognizes the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people. The sincerity of the U.S. position and the U.S. commitment to international legitimacy and the application of a single standard are thus being put to a test.

Should it so desire, the U.S. Administration can undoubtedly remove any obstacle to the implementation of the international legitimacy, resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, and establish just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region. This would include forcing Israel to accept this solution, end its intransigence, and give up its ambitions and dreams of establishing "its greater state" from the Euphrates to the Nile.

What is important is ending Israel's intransigence and compelling it to accept international legitimacy, Resolutions Nos. 242 and 338, and the principle of land for peace. This must be done if the U.S. proposals are to succeed. Otherwise, peace in the region will remain a remote prospect.

## Editorial Views Iranian Role in Iraqi Rebellion

*NC1703162691 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Mar 91 p 4*

[Editorial: "Road Begins Here"]

[Text] Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's speech yesterday sheds light on his country's state of affairs in the aftermath of the Gulf war, especially on the reconstruction of Iraq both politically and economically. It was, in a sense, an overdue speech since the country has also been living in a state of uncertainty due to the rebellion in northern and southern Iraq. President Husayn pointed the finger point blank at Iran even though he did not name it as having played a devious role in fomenting the strife. In retrospect, the revelation that Tehran was involved in helping the rebellion in southern Iraq must have come as a shock to Iraqis and other Arab states which became encouraged by the rapprochement between Iraq and Iran at the conclusion of their eight-year war. The warming of bilateral relations between them in recent times gave all Arabs much hope that Iran and the Arab World are once again on the right track. The future looked bright between the two nations and many Arab countries proceeded full speed to construct even more on the friendship that was taking root between Iran and the Arab World. In this context, the dismay of Iraq in Iran's efforts to undermine the war-torn nation and threaten its territorial integrity and independence will, for sure, cause consternation and disappointment across the Arab World as well.

And what is going on in the north of Iraq also alarms Arabs everywhere. The ongoing attempts to stir the Iraqi Kurds into a rebellion can only drive a deeper wedge between Iraq and its neighbours. Surely the instigators of the insurrection in the north are in the same boat with the promoters of the rebellion in the south since the end result is to threaten the territorial integrity of Iraq, something that all Arabs, and the international community as a whole, whether friends or foes of the Iraqi regime, should fight. In this vein, the Arab governments are called upon to serve Iraq's neighbours with clear notice that they will not tolerate any infringement on Iraq's independence and sovereignty.

At a time when Baghdad is trying hard to make a good beginning and start fresh, it is most disturbing that conspiracies against it are still being hatched right and left. Having committed itself to the process of democratisation, all the capitals of the world should now lend Iraq a helping hand to heal its wounds and embark on the new road of democracy and parliamentary system of government. Saddam Husayn pledged yesterday to build a democratic society in his country: "Our decision to build a democratic society based on the constitution, the rule of law and political pluralism is a decisive, irrevocable decision," he told his people. "It is time to start building the pillar of the new faith," he stressed. The Iraqi president must be held accountable to this pledge which in the final analysis is more far-reaching and effective than all the other commitments he made to the international community including those made to the U.N. Security Council.

It is regrettable that Iraq had not moved in that direction before the catastrophic war occurred. Jordan has always called for the promotion and spread of democracy across the Arab World as the best guarantee against ill-conceived state decisions. If Baghdad is now on the road to democracy, it deserves all the support it can get from the community of nations including those which destroyed it. Iraq deserves a chance to restructure and reconstruct itself in every dimension. The world owes it to Iraq to give it that chance.

## Syria's Khaddam Arrives on 'Unexpected' Visit

### Meets With Al-Hirawi

*NC1703151391 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam arrived in Beirut today on an unexpected visit and has been meeting President Ilyas al-Hirawi since 1530. Prime Minister 'Umar Karami joined the meeting a short time ago. Some sources said that Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, who returned to Lebanon this afternoon, may join the meeting, which is also being attended by Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an [head of Syrian intelligence in Lebanon].

Defense Minister Michel al-Murr is in Damascus, where he is continuing his talks with Syrian officials on current developments.

### Comments on Talks

*NC1703191791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1738 GMT 17 Mar 91*

["Dialogue" between Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and unidentified reporters at "the temporary presidential office" in Beirut on 17 March—recorded]

[Text] [Khaddam] It is only natural that we inform the Lebanese Government about developments in the region and recent contacts and exchange views on several issues of mutual interest. From this premise, I briefed his excellency the president and Prime Minister Karami on the recent contacts and activities under way in the region and on our stands on them. I also listened to what his excellency the president and the prime minister had to say about these activities.

Of course, ways to consolidate the process of national accord were also discussed, as well as how to enhance the state's role in the implementation of the national accord to close the file of the Lebanese crisis. We can say that views were in agreement on all topics discussed.

[Reporter] Mr. Vice President, during Baker's visit to the Syrian capital, an agreement of views on the Lebanese cause, particularly with respect to the implementation of the al-Ta'if Accord, emerged. Will there be a specific step-by-step followup of the implementation?

[Khaddam] The Lebanese Government is the one which has the right to do this, and it is also the one which has the means to do this. Syria will fully support the Lebanese Government and the means to which it resorts in this respect.

[Reporter] Mr. Vice President, do you believe that Resolution 425 now has some chance of success in light of current regional developments?

[Khaddam] Of course. We believe that Resolution 425 will be acted upon and implemented. All its provisions should be implemented. There is a regional and international partial consensus on the need to implement this resolution.

[Reporter] Mr. Vice President, with respect to 21 March, the deadline for the dissolution of the militias, how can Syria assist in this issue if matters reach the point of a disagreement on the peaceful settlement of the issue?

[Khaddam] We believe that all parties have agreed to the national accord charter, which is known as the al-Ta'if Accord. All parties have explicitly announced their support for the implementation of this accord. Therefore, we do not expect the emergence of serious obstacles in the face of the implementation of any practical step to close all aspects of the file.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] Syria with respect to the government's situation?

[Khaddam] Syria is explicitly committed to supporting the Lebanese state and legitimate government and to exerting any efforts the legitimate government requests to enhance the march to national accord and to consolidate the state's authority and extend its sovereignty to all Lebanese territories and all Lebanese citizens.

[Text] [Reporter] Regarding the Damascus Declaration, can Lebanon participate within this framework?

[Khaddam] Yes. The door is open to Lebanon. The eight countries expect that Lebanon and other Arab countries which accept the declaration and its priniciples will join this declaration.

[Reporter] Did you discuss this subject today?

[Khaddam] No.

[Reporter] Mr. Vice President, regarding the step of sending the Army to the south, there is a request that this step be bolstered. Is the possibility of bolstering the Army acceptable at this point in time?

[Khaddam] This issue concerns the Lebanese state and government. It is the one that can determine the capabilities and resources at its disposal. It is also the one that can determine when and how to use these capabilities.

[Reporter] May I ask whether there has been a Syrian-American agreement to deal with all current issues in Lebanon within a certain period of time?

[Khaddam] The situation in Lebanon is the concern of the Lebanese. The role of others is to help the Lebanese sides achieve the best solutions and attain the best results.

[Reporter] Regarding the foreign hostages, can you tell us whether there is anything new regarding them?

[Khaddam] Efforts are being exerted and we will continue to exert them, to end this issue.

[Reporter] Is it known where they are and in which part of Lebanon?

[Khaddam] You are the ones who are supposed to know.

[Reporter] What subjects were not discussed with Minister Buwayz during his latest visit with you, which prompted your visit here to discuss them?

[Khaddam] When meeting with Minister Buwayz, we only discussed subjects dealing with the south, Resolution 425, and the meetings between him and the U.S. secretary.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] you talked about implementing Resolution 425 [words indistinct]?

[Khaddam] There are many ways to implement this resolution. One of them is to take advantage of the international pressure, which is seeking the implementation of all UN resolutions on the existing situation in the region, whether the Arab-Israeli conflict or the Lebanese aspect of this conflict. The circumstances are propitious and, according to our calculations, complications connected with this issue are not very great.

[Reporter] Mr. Vice President, do you believe the al-Ta'if process will continue its steps toward full implementation?

[Khaddam] Yes. The Lebanese have no alternative.

[Reporter] Some sides are boycotting the government and oppose what the al-Ta'if agreement stipulates. How will their stand be dealt with?

[Khaddam] I believe that President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister 'Umar Karami are dealing with the issue in an appropriate manner which in the final analysis will serve Lebanon's interests.

[Reporter] Did you discuss the subject of the new world order with Secretary Baker and what is Syria's stand regarding that?

[Khaddam] What was discussed has been reported by the press. We discussed a number of issues, and everyone knows what they were.

### Departs After Meeting

*NC1703203991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam left Beirut for Damascus after meeting with Speaker Husayn al-Husayni at the latter's house in the presence of President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister 'Umar Karami. Ministers Albert Mansur, Nabih Birri, Talal Arslan, and Army Commander General Emile Lahhud later joined the meeting. They were followed by Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din.

## Sa'adah: 'Nothing New' Regarding Cabinet Boycott

*NC1703062391 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] President al-Hirawi received Minister George Sa'adah yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed ending the boycott [by Sa'adah of the cabinet sessions]. Minister Sa'adah said the visit was an ordinary one and there is nothing new about the boycott.

### Said Willing To Join Government

*NC1803102791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 18 Mar 91*

[Text] In connection with the continuing contacts, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz visited Minister Samir Ja'ja', commander of the Lebanese Forces, in Ghidras last night. He conveyed to him the government's response to his proposals and the atmosphere in which the talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam were conducted.

With regard to the boycott [by Samir Ja'ja' and George Sa'adah] of the government, media sources reported that Minister George Sa'adah is willing to join the cabinet on condition that it is not done quickly, so that the decision to disband the militias will be taken before he joins, in order to prevent any embarassment between him and the Lebanese Forces and Ja'ja'.

## 302 Released Palestinians Arrive in Sidon

*NC1203183091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 12 Mar 91*

[Text] Syrian forces released 302 Palestinians this morning and transported them in ten buses to Ta'nayil township, from where they travelled to Sidon, arriving there in the afternoon. According to reports from the area, the majority of the released Palestinians are supporters of Yasir 'Arafat and other PLO-affiliated organizations.

In response to a question, Zayd Wahbih, the PLO's political official in Lebanon, said: The initiative by the Syrian authorities indicates a positive policy. We hope that the release will be the start of political relaxation. He noted that it will be possible to open up new channels with Damascus through negotiators which he did not identify.

The released Palestinians went to 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp to visit their families. It has been learned that a number of them intend to go to al-Bass and al-Rashidiyah camps later to see their families after being held for a long time in Syria.

## Karami on Disbanding Militias, Resolution 425

*NC1203195191 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1715 GMT 12 Mar 91*

[Speech by Lebanese Prime Minister 'Umar Karami delivered at the Southern Lebanon Council in southern Lebanon on 12 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] It is a beautiful day for us to meet today in southern Lebanon. When we refer to southern Lebanon, we refer to the crown of Lebanon, because southern Lebanon and the western al-Biqa' actually allowed all Lebanese to hold their heads high, protected Lebanon, safeguarded its honor, and secured Lebanon. [passage omitted]

When the chairman of the Southern Lebanon Council invited me to meet you, I hesitated a great deal, because I have never wanted to meet you emptyhanded. I have wanted to meet you when I am able to inform you that the implementation of Resolution No. 425 has been secured. The implementation of Resolution No. 425 secures the liberation of southern Lebanon and the western al-Biqa' up to the recognized international borders of Lebanon. In this lies your salvation as well as Lebanon's. The attainment of this objective heralds an end to your suffering and an end to the sufferings of Lebanon. Nowadays, we are working tirelessly and shouldering heavy responsibilities with the aim of saving southern Lebanon. That is because the salvation of southern Lebanon will lead to the salvation of the whole of Lebanon. We are aware that Lebanon will never rest unless southern Lebanon is freed of occupation, as martyr Rashid Karami said when he visited southern Lebanon. We are well aware of this. Likewise, we are aware that southern Lebanon cannot find any comfort until Resolution 425 is implemented. Resolution 425 cannot be implemented unless we unify Lebanon, unless we bolster the state sovereignty, and [word indistinct] on the entire Lebanese territory. When this happens, we can face the entire world with a well-armed and cohesive national and pan-Arab army which can present our case to the whole world, telling it that the Lebanese people, including their Christians and Muslims, are one patriotic people who seek the independence of all Lebanese territory, and that this people will not forfeit a single grain of their national soil, neither in southern Lebanon, nor in northern Lebanon, nor in al-Biqa'. [applause]

We are working to achieve this objective. We are working constantly to achieve Lebanon's unity. We believe that Lebanon cannot be united unless the militias are disbanded. Lebanon cannot stand on its feet as long as there are states existing within it, as long as there are governments that share authority with the Lebanese Government, and as long as there are governments that partake of the Lebanese people's resources, will, and livelihood. There are governments [inside Lebanon] that apply pressure and violate our dignity every day by their existence on Lebanese territory. Therefore, we are unequivocally calling and working for the disbandment of militias. This is the major step, following which the authority of the Lebanese Government can be consolidated, and after which southern Lebanon can be liberated. [applause] When the militias are disbanded and weapons are collected, the state can regain its resources. We cannot alleviate the suffering of the Lebanese people unless the state's coffers are filled. [passage omitted]

Nowadays, we want to disband these militias in the interest of the state and the people. [applause] Lebanon will not be able to stand on its feet unless these militias are disbanded. We are well aware of all the procrastination and prevarications currently under way. We understand their meaning. However, we are saying on your behalf that we will not accept anything short of the disbandment of militias, because this step is the first cornerstone on which we can build this homeland. We seek to rebuild this army with the aim of making it a national army serving all of Lebanon and the entire Lebanese people. We want this army to protect our borders, secure our frontiers, and safeguard our honor. We want this army to be a nationalist Lebanese Arab army that knows that it has an Israeli enemy. We want this army to be ready to be deployed on the borderlines and to die for [words indistinct]. We want a cohesive, pan-Arab administration that neither accepts bribes nor shows leniency in implementing the law to keep this people happy and serve them. Thus, if we show unity in pursuing the attainment of these objectives, we can unify Lebanon and save southern Lebanon. Then, we can meet with you and hear about your requests. When this is achieved, we will hopefully promise you that your requests will be met. When we make promises, we keep them. Hence, I request that you give us a just few months to allow us to regain the state authority, so that we can exercise state authority over the entire Lebanese national soil and regain the state's resources. Thereafter, these resources can be used in the interest of southern Lebanon and the people. [applause] [passage omitted]

Dear brothers, this is the pledge that I make to you. We pledge to work to secure the implementation of Resolution No. 425. We will accept nothing short of the restoration of southern Lebanon within the recognized international borders. When this happens, we will not meet you here. We will meet you in Dab'ah and in every village [word indistinct] so that we can all go to kiss the land whose soil was irrigated with the chaste blood of martyrs. We will then head for southern Lebanon to sniff the fragrance of martyrdom which emanates from you [applause] and which allows us to smell paradise. Blessed be you, residents of southern Lebanon. You have protected the honor of Lebanon and our dignity, and honored the pledge. Long live you and southern Lebanon. [applause]

## Al-Husayni Says U.S. Supports Al-Ta'if Accord

*NC1803081491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 18 Mar 91*

[Text] Following his return to Beirut from the United States via Paris yesterday, Chamber of Deputies Speaker

Husayn al-Husayni stated that the U.S. Administration is committed to the implementation of the spirit and letter of the al-Ta'if Accord, particularly the four articles concerning constitutional reforms, the mechanism for ending the war, the establishment of Lebanese-Syrian relations on firm grounds, and the end of Israel's occupation of the South through the implementation of UN Resolution 425. Speaker al-Husayni added that Washington will assist in implementing this resolution and will not allow Israel to have a negative say in Lebanon.

### Radio Cites Three Points in Damascus Talks

*NC1503183291 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] Our radio has learned that, during the talks in Damascus between the Lebanese and U.S. delegations, the two sides emphasized three points:

1. Regional commitment to the letter and spirit of the al-Ta'if [national accord] agreement as a means of resolving the Lebanese crisis.

2. The U.S. side stressed the role of the Lebanese military institution and legitimate forces in extending state control over all the country. It has been learned that the U.S. Administration has, through its secretary of state, asked the Lebanese Army to exert efforts toward the release of the Western hostages in Lebanon, a request that underlines the seriousness with which the United States views the role that the military institution can play in the future.

3. The U.S. side said that the United States is following closely the full implementation of all the provisions of the al-Ta'if agreement in accordance with the mechanism that has been approved. Well-informed sources interpreted this position as a renewal of the foreign equation that left its mark on the al-Ta'if agreement since its first day.

Concerning the South, our radio learned that, during the Damascus talks, the U.S. side conveyed to the Lebanese side Israeli reservations concerning the implementation of Resolution 425. U.S. interest in that topic, it is being said, led to exchanges with Tel Aviv in an attempt to reach a certain agreement.

### Al-Asad Affirms Support in Cable to Al-Hirawi

*NC1703181991 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] Within the framework of regional and international support for Lebanon, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has affirmed Syria's determination to ensure the success of the reconciliation march in Lebanon and its continuing readiness to provide the assistance requested by the legitimate Lebanese Government to implement the national reconciliation charter and extend the state's authority to all parts of Lebanon.

This came in a response cable President Ilyas al-Hirawi received from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

### Hostage Problem Said 'Heading Toward Solution'

*NC1503094491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0910 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] Beirut, 15 Mar (MENA)—The Lebanese newspaper AL-LIWA' reports that the problem of foreign hostages in Lebanon is heading toward a solution after the Iranian authorities requested U.S. intervention to release Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd as the correct first step to resolve the hostage crisis.

According to information, says the paper, the U.S. Administration has sensed an Israeli response in this regard, which suggests that foreign hostages in Lebanon may be released before the end of this month. The paper says that the release of these hostages can be described as the first positive result of the end of the Gulf crisis.

### U.S. Weapons Reportedly To Arrive 'Tomorrow'

*NC1703091491 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] The press reports that a shipment of U.S. weapons for the Lebanese Army will arrive at Tripoli Port tomorrow. The Army command has authorized a committee of officers to receive the shipment.

### Ministers Officially Reopen Beirut Port

*NC1503183691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Excerpt] The port of Beirut has been officially reopened in the presence of ministers Shawqi Fakhuri and Muhammad Yusuf Baydun and Chairman of the general labor federation Antoine Bisharah. Minister Fakhuri said that the port of Beirut will begin receiving ships as of today and that export and import traffic will be normal. He said that the reopening of the port has political and economic significance in view of the great support it entails for the federation and trade exchange. He said that the port is now completely ready and that 11 ships are due to arrive at the port. He promised that the state will extend its authority over all ports and utilities. [passage omitted]

### Hizballah Radio Reviews Iraqi Insurgency Events

*NC1503141391 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] The Iraqi popular uprising continues against the ruling regime in Baghdad. The regime's forces have failed to contain the uprising or reverse its tide despite their methods of suppression.

The revolutionaries have managed to gain control of large areas in both the south and north of the country. They have also seized large numbers of weapons and munitions, including surface-to-surface missiles and heavy-caliber arms. A number of officers joined the insurgents after rejecting orders from Baghdad to shell their own people.

According to reports from southern Iraq, the rebellious masses in the cities of al-Basrah, al-'Amarah, al-Qurnah, and al-Tannumah have fought fierce battles with the forces of the Baghdad government and managed to seize a number of tanks.

The radio of the Iraqi opposition, monitored in Bakhtaran in western Iran, says that Iraqi citizens in northern al-Qurnah have repulsed attacks by the 10th Division of the Republican Guard and succeeded in destroying more than 20 tanks.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Assembly for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] said that reports received from Iraq indicate that massive demonstrations have been held in al-Nu'maniyah and that opponents of the regime attacked government offices and took complete control of the city.

The masses of the insurgent city of al-Kut have staged large demonstrations and clashed with the Iraqi regime's forces. The city is in turmoil.

In al-Hillah, the revolutionaries waged a massive attack on al-Mahawil camp at the approaches to the city. Battles are still under way around that camp.

Iraqi refugees arriving in Iran say southern Iraqi cities, particularly al-Najaf, are still the scene of intensive battles between the opposition and the regime's forces in the outskirts of these towns. The regime's forces are stationed around the cities and are bombarding them with artillery and military aircraft.

Meanwhile, refugees from northern Iraq say that the Iraq regime's forces perpetrated a horrible and extraordinary crime yesterday. These forces committed mass and systematic murder of the Iraqi citizens in Kirkuk in northern Iraq.

The sources say that helicopters of the regular Iraqi troops raided crowds of Iraqi civilians as they were trying to flee the city to escape from the practices of the pro-regime forces.

Sources close to the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan say that the forces of the popular uprising have taken control of 10 cities and towns, including the city of Dahuk. The sources say that over 90 percent of the Dahuk Governorate is now under the control of the popular uprising.

Meanwhile, fierce attacks against the regime's forces are taking place in Zakho.

A statement by SAIRI said that the regime's forces are directing continued shellfire at al-Najaf and Karbala', killing more civilians. The statement says that a number of tanks in working condition were seized in the outskirts of al-Najaf and Karbala' and that the opposition groups have downed four helicopters. The bodies of two pilots were found. Uprising forces also stormed two prisons in Mosul and al-Sulaymaniyah and freed over 4,400 prisoners.

## Amal Urges Iraqis To Confront Saddam, U.S.

*NC1703133791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] The Islamic Amal Movement's information department has issued the following statement on our kinsmen's uprising in Iraq:

One of the aims of the Western military presence, specifically the American one, in the Gulf region and in particular in Iraq's territories is to encircle the Muslims who have rebelled against the tyrannical regime in Baghdad and to prevent the mujahid Iraqi people from determining their own fate. Consequently, this presence makes it very clear that the U.S. Administration wants a weak regime that would serve its interests in Baghdad.

The statement added: We categorically reject any harm to the unity of the people and territorial integrity of Iraq. We call on our Iraqi kinsmen to rally around the principles that safeguard their country's unity and sovereignty, that get the aggressors out of the region, and that hasten the downfall of Saddam, who has given the neocolonist all the excuses to have a foothold in the Muslims' lands.

The statement went on: Finally, we call on the brother Iraqi leaders of the opposition to mass the ranks more than ever before to thwart Saddam, his American masters, and all those evil suspicious parties lying in wait to harm the determination of the blessed uprising. This uprising is determined to achieve the objectives, aims, and hopes of the oppressed Iraqi people, who will stand in solidarity with the rebels in the region in order to confront the new regional security order that aims to entrench the Zionist entity in the region.

## Shams al-Din Rejects New Deputies' Appointment

*NC1403100991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 14 Mar 91*

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, has voiced his opposition to appointing new members to the Chamber of Deputies. He said that he has revealed his stand to the parties concerned, despite the fact that the issue appears in the text of the al-Ta'if agreement and, therefore, its non-implementation undermines the agreement.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-NAHAR, Shams al-Din said he does not see any justification for proposing this issue, which creates argument and opposition without any political reason. Not appointing new deputies does not harm the political situation, especially since it is possible to hold nationwide parliamentary elections in the near future. Shams al-Din said he may renew his dialogue with Minister Dr. George Sa'adah, especially because the previous meeting was beneficial.

## Saudi Commander Arrives, Meets Defense Minister

*NC1403230391 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 14 Mar 91*

[Excerpt] General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, this evening received His Highness Staff Lieutenant General Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, commander of the joint forces, and his accompanying delegation. General Hikmat al-Shihabi, Armed Forces chief of staff; General 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of staff; and the Saudi ambassador in Damascus also attended the meeting, at which the ties between the brotherly Armed Forces of Syria and Saudi Arabia and their cooperation in meeting the challenges engendered by the Gulf war at this complex juncture in the Arab nation's history were discussed. The Saudi delegation arrived in Damascus this afternoon on an official visit to Syria. [passage omitted]

### Meets With Al-Asad

*NC1503112991 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received His Highness Staff Lieutenant General Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud at 1015 today. The meeting was attended by General Hikmat al-Shihabi, Armed Forces chief of staff, and the Saudi ambassador in Damascus.

### Departs Damascus

*NC1503173791 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] Staff Lieutenant General Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, commander of the joint forces, and his accompanying military delegation left Damascus this afternoon. The guest delegation was seen off at Damascus international airport by General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of staff of the Army and Armed Forces; General 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of the general staff; the Saudi ambassador in Damascus, and a number of senior officers of the general command.

## Al-Asad Receives Call From King Husayn

*NC1503091891 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received a telephone call from His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan last evening.

## Press Views Recent Developments in U.S. Policy

### 'Qualitative' Progress Seen

*NC1603091491 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[From the Press Review]

[Text] In an editorial entitled "The Center of Intersection and the Most Difficult Choice," AL-THAWRAH says that Damascus, as always, continues to play a key role and remains the axis of any political efforts concerning the region. This is particularly so since Damascus has always been known to be the home capital of strategic decisions, comprehensive perspective, and political and principled credibility under the leadership of President al-Asad.

It is natural, therefore, for Damascus now to be the center of political activity for seeking a settlement to the Arab-Zionist conflict on the basis of international legitimacy and UN resolutions for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace. Syria has always endeavored diligently and sincerely to achieve this peace, unlike Israel, which has worked to undermine every serious opportunity for peace simply because it is an aggressive and expansionist entity that is strangled by peace—and that is why it ferociously rejects it, as it has done more than once before.

The AL-THAWRAH editorial goes on to say that it seems that active and intensive political endeavors are currently being exerted to set the stage for a test to see if the international community will handle the Arab-Israeli conflict the same way it handled the recent Gulf crisis. The world, and the United States in its forefront now, will find that Israel is the only party that rejects all efforts at peace in the region except the Israeli peace, which is based on annexation and occupation and insistence on illusions and historical allegations.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The Geneva summit between Presidents al-Asad and Bush and the results achieved there regarding the conflict and the need to find a comprehensive solution and to exert efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in accordance with UN resolutions, including Resolutions 242 and 338, must be the basis for any movement toward peace. This is particularly so since this qualitative development in the U.S. position and its outlook of the conflict must be taken advantage of quickly to make serious steps in the peace process. Arab efforts must continue to be collective and to generate pressure in order to achieve further progress in the same direction as the U.S. position that could bolster this great shift which President al-Asad accomplished during the Geneva summit in his talks with President Bush. These talks were aimed at shaping new convictions in the U.S. view of the conflict that did not exist before the Geneva summit. The more steps the United States takes toward fulfilling its commitments in the peace process, the more it will discover the truth about the Arabs and about Israel. It will find out that Israel ridicules peace and uses it to mislead and deceive, while maintaining its known policy.

The paper goes on to say that the Arabs must fully realize that talk about peace does not mean it is accomplished. They must also realize that peace, like war, particularly with an enemy such as Israel, involves a battle. This peace requires Arab preparations, efforts, solidarity, and an integrated strategy that takes into consideration all possible and available alternatives. It also requires that one language be used in the dialogue with the world and with the United States, so that they can work to implement the UN resolutions, save international legitimacy, and strengthen its credibility in the new world order and its concepts.

The paper concludes by saying that as long as the Arabs manage to deal with the world in one language they will make more progress, whether toward peace or in terms of preparedness, should Israel insist on challenging the world community. Under the circumstances, Israel would be challenging the United States specifically, and we do not believe the United States will abandon its credibility while it is at the threshold of an extremely sensitive world era that requires much balance. This is the greatest choice. Therefore, Damascus is now the crossroads in the fullest sense of the word.

### 'Positive, Constructive Steps'

*NC1703095191 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Using the headline "Arab Ability To Deal With Changes," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Efforts are being made in all directions to implement proposed solutions for the Arab-Israeli struggle, regarded as the most dangerous in the world. If this struggle continues, it will be difficult to predict the threats it will pose to the region and the world.

The paper adds: Several international powers, especially the United States, have recently given some indications of more comprehension and understanding of the facts of the struggle in the region. This reality will remain mere words, however, unless coupled with tangible practical measures—or to be more exact, unless these words are translated into reality. This is because everyone, especially the U.S. Administration, has agreed that a solution to the region's struggle must principally be based on the UN resolutions, particularly 242 and 338.

For our part, we Arabs are of the view that commitment to international legitimacy means an end forever to the law of the jungle. Thus, all peoples will have equal duties and equal rights.

The paper says: The Arabs' response to and interaction with the current proposals affirm that the Arabs have always sought just and comprehensive peace and that Israel alone rejects and stands against international efforts to realize the cherished peace. Any reading of the official Israeli statements, before, during, and after U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's tour of the region, clearly demonstrates the extent of the panic that gripped Israel as a result of mere talk about implementing international resolutions pertaining to the Arab-Israeli struggle. We have seen how all the Israeli officials without exception rushed to announce openly their rejection of such proposals, affirming their policy of aggression and expansion.

Concluding its article, the paper says: The Arabs now have to face great tasks. They must take the appropriate stand at the appropriate time and prevent anyone from tampering with their causes and fate.

Using the headline "Occupation, Peace Poles Apart," TISHRIN says: Efforts are now being made to realize just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. All Arab and international meetings and contacts center on the fact that there can be no alternative to implementing the international legitimate resolutions on the Arab-Israeli struggle, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338.

The paper says: Since the United States has made positive, constructive steps in this regard, it is only natural for all factors and elements to be unified to promote these steps and enhance their credibility with a genuine, deep-rooted treatment of the crux of the Arab-Israeli problem, represented by the Palestinian people's cause and the occupation of Arab territory. Nevertheless, we find that Israel is an exception to this rule. By rejecting just and comprehensive peace, Israel is trying to turn the hands of the clock backward and continue its policy of sabotaging international detente and hindering efforts to realize stability and security in the region.

Concluding its article, the paper says: By revealing its true face, by continuing its challenge to the world, by turning a cold shoulder to all international conventions and laws, and by flouting universal legitimacy, Israel evinces its aggressive nature not only by occupying and keeping the Arab territories but by imposing faits accomplis on the Arabs and forcing them to capitulate, something which the international community should confront.

### Commentary Reacts to Saddam Husayn Speech

*NC1703143891 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: By all criteria, it was expected that the consequences of the Gulf war would set off an earthquake in Iraq and among the Iraqis; an earthquake that would make our fraternal people in Iraq rise against the decisionmaker who intended to inflict an undeserved defeat on Iraq after involving it in an unequal war in which neither Iraq nor the entire nation had any interest.

By all criteria too, it was calculated that the earthquake was coming Iraq's way ever since the Baghdad ruler turned fraternal Iraq into a big prison where the Iraqis' blood is shed without any reason whatsoever, and from the time he led sedition and immersed himself in it for eight years of grinding war with Iran, a neighboring Muslim country. So no one was surprised or taken unaware by the earthquake that shook Iraq on the first day after the Gulf battles ended. Iraqis came out, from the extreme north to the extreme south, to avenge their dignity, retake their initiative and will, and restore Iraq's noble face, which the Iraqi ruler marred with his stupid adventures and his reckless deviation from the people and nation during his ill-fated rule of Iraq.

The Baghdad ruler is not exempt from the lessons of history, which are unanimous in teaching that rulers who lead their peoples into losing wars are bound to fall, that rulers and not armies are responsible for defeats when the ruler goes to war on the basis of mistaken calculations, conducts it on the basis of a wrong decision, and then hides in its dust, leaving his people and army to face the worst fate. He then seeks to save himself and his authority behind a wall of deception that he has made without any pang of conscience, substituting victory for defeat, and blaming the powers he sought to fight, the nation that did not obey his reckless decision, and the people that did not rush to commit mass suicide to defend his bloody rule.

Yesterday was a day of surprises when Saddam Husayn emerged to deliver to the people a speech that did not refer to any of the lessons learned from the war but in which he threatened the people that refused to become the scapegoat for the shameful defeat and who refused to let humiliation and disgrace be their everlasting fate. Instead of assuming responsibility for everything that happened, with the courage that he has always lacked, and restoring to our great Iraqi people its right to choose its fate and leadership, the Iraqi ruler went before Iraq and the nation with a new stream of hatred and excuses that do not convince even the one uttering them. He threatened to kill every Iraqi. He also threatened massacres, which have been the lot of Iraq throughout Saddam's reign. Is this the state of consciousness that comes before the end of Baghdad's ruler? Or are these the delusions that have led him throughout these years from one trap to an abyss? Has the Baghdad ruler's calculations now become so naive, after all the lessons he has been through and from which he should have benefited and learned that no people, at any time in history, have accepted humiliation forever or allowed themselves to be turned into a toy in their ruler's hands?

In its valiant uprising, the Iraqi people are now proving the truth of the laws of history, no matter how much tyrants try to ignore them and regardless of the schemes and hatred they harbor for their peoples.

## TISHRIN on Peace in Middle East, UN Role

*NC1603095991 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0825 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] Damascus, 16 Mar (SANA)—In its editorial today, TISHRIN says that Damascus has informed the international figures visiting Syria in search of a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict that there can be no peace in the region without an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and the establishment of the Palestinian people's rights in their territories and homeland.

The paper adds that Damascus also informed the international envoys that the UN's credibility is on the line and that the entire world expects it to tackle the region's crisis with the same standards and force that were applied during the Gulf crisis. What is required, therefore, is an end to the aggravating Zionist aggression, particularly since the aggression is not against Palestine and the Golan alone, but against international resolutions as well.

The paper described the U.S. position as encouraging and in the right direction. The paper says that numerous voices in the international community were raised demanding an effective settlement to the Middle East crisis right away, so that the peace efforts do not lose their momentum. This is particularly true since it has been Israel's custom in the past to undermine any serious efforts, and it has succeeded by means of equivocation and procrastination in undermining the opportunities for peace. Today, it is again attempting to use the same means and tools to cripple the will of the international community and to move the clock backward.

In conclusion, the paper emphasizes that the international community must curb Israeli aggressiveness and put things on the right course, so that the international community will not lose its credibility. The paper adds: Israel must withdraw from the territories it has occupied by force and aggression by following the road of a just and comprehensive peace. This is Damascus' unshifting language.

## Afghanistan

### Government Declares Cease-Fire During Ramadan

*LD1503175591 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1630 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] In accordance with the explicit injunctions of the holy Koran and the traditions of Prophet Muhammad and following the lofty Islamic principles of facilitating the performance of holy religious obligations and implementing of the policy of national reconciliation and national compromise, the government of the Republic of Afghanistan invites all groups, commanders, and formations of the armed opposition who have not yet abandoned their weapons and who continue the fraticidal war to now end the war.

Congratulating all Muslims on the arrival of the auspicious month of Ramadan, the Afghan Government is renewing its efforts to promote its peaceful endeavors for the restoration of nationwide peace and a political solution to the country's problems.

To achieve the Islamic and national aspirations of the country's religious people who call for nationwide peace and security, the Afghan Government is declaring a nationwide cease-fire throughout the entire territory of the republic, beginning from the first day of the holy month of Ramadan [aproximately 16 March] until the fourth day of 'Id al-Fitr.

### 'Extremists' Plan Attacks

*LD1503190291 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1630 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] Following the announcement of a cease-fire, stemming from the Islamic and humane objectives of the policy of national reconciliation and the high interest of the brave and courageous Afghan nation, the authorities of the Afghan Government have information that the extremists attached to the military intelligence service of Pakistan, with the direct participation of some Pakistani military units, are preparing to launch fresh attacks on some regions of the country, including Khowst.

The Afghan Government has accurate reports and information concerning the plans, nature, arms, number of extremists and their supporters, and important places in the designed attack.

The courageous and brave Afghan Armed Forces have taken all the necessary measures to foil such attacks and explicitly announce that if such attacks take place, the enemies of the Afghan people will receive a proper and proportionate reply.

In full control of the situation, the Afghan Government emphasizes that such evil plans will bring nothing but shame and exposure to the extremists and their Pakistani supporters. The chieftains of the fundamentalists and the extremists' formations stationed in Pakistan are again attempting to use the poor and deceived elements attached to them as cannon fodder.

### 'Extremists' Violate Cease-Fire

*LD1703151591 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] Armed extremists violated the cease-fire today by firing heavy weapons on residential areas of Khowst and Badakhshan Provinces. According to a BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military section report, one of our compatriots was martyred and four others injured in the city of Faizabad, Badakhshan Province. A child was martyred and three others were injured in Khowst Province.

The armed extremists, by violating the cease-fire declared by the Republic of Afghanistan during the sacred month of Ramdan, have revealed once again their sinister faces and their antihuman and anti-Islamic actions to our Muslim and religious people.

### Mujahidin Destroy Military Base in Paktia

*BK1603142291 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have wiped out an important military base of the Kabul regime in Paktia Province. They reportedly hit the military supply center at Bagar Kheyl, west of Khowst, with rockets and mortars, damaging two tanks and five trucks. The mujahidin are also reported to have tightened their siege around the Khowst Cantonment.

## Bangladesh

### 12 New Parliament Members Take Oath of Office

*BK1703140891 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Excerpts] In Bangladesh, 12 newly elected members of the fifth Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] took oath of office Sunday [17 March]. Chief Election Commissioner Justice Abdus Rauf administered the oath at a simple ceremony at the National Assembly building. The members of parliament who took oath Sunday included four from Baksal [Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League], one each from JSD [Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal]-Siraj, Ganotantrik Party, National Awami party-Muzaffar, NDP [National Democratic Party] and Islami Oikya Jote and three independents. [passage omitted] The oath taking of the rest of the members-elect will continue Monday and Tuesday.

### Khaleda Zia, Others Sworn In

*BK1803130891 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Mar 91*

[Text] BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] MP's [members of parliament]-elect, led by their leader Begum

Khaleda Zia, took oath of office at midday on Monday in a simple ceremony. Chief Election Commissioner Justice Mohammad Abdur Rauf administered the oath at the committee room number one of the Sangsad Bhavan [parliament house] in Dhaka. As the oath was administered, Begum Zia was flanked by senior leaders of her party, including Secretary General Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar, Vice Chairman Professor Badrudduja Chowdhury, former Speaker Mirza Ghulam Hafiz, and former President [of the party] Mahmudullah. The oath-taking ceremony began with the recitation from the holy Koran.

Earlier, the Jamaat-i-Islami MP's led by its parliamentary group leader, Maulana Matiur Rahman Nizami, took the oath. Mr. Rashid Khan Menon of Workers Party also took his oath today. One hundred and fifty-two new MP's later signed the roll of members of the parliament secretariat. With this the number of MP's who have taken oath so far stands at 164.

After the oath-taking ceremony, Begum Zia went to the mazar [mausoleum] of President Ziaur Rahman and offered fateha [prayers].

Our parliamentary representative says out of 135 BNP members, 134 took the oath on Monday. One member from Dhaka-2 Constituency could not attend. Begum Khaleda Zia, who won five seats, vacated four, retaining the Feni-1 Constituency. One Jamaat member from Chittagong-14 Constituency also could not attend the oath-taking ceremony on Monday. MP's-elect of Awami League and CPB [Communist Party of Bangladesh] are expected to take part in the oath-taking ceremony tomorrow.

### BNP Leader Outlines Party Objectives

*BK1503160291 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia has said the main objectives of her party will be to ensure democracy, change (?the lot) of the people, and make the nation self-reliant. She was speaking at the inaugural session of the party's extended meeting in Dhaka today.

Begum Khaleda Zia said the 19-point development program of Shahid [martyr] President Ziaur Rahman will be implemented for overall development of the country. She said her government will take necessary measures to streamline the administration and remove corrupt practices.

The BNP chief urged the party workers to go to the village (?to work) with vast masses to solve their problems. She said her party will fulfill its commitment made to the people before the parliamentary polls and sought the cooperation of all quarters in this regard. The meeting was attended by all members of the standing committee, executive committee, presidents and general secretaries of the district, municipal, and upazila [subdistrict] committees, and newly-elected MP's [members of parliament]. Hundreds of party workers, including women workers, from different parts of the country also attended.

### Shanti Bahini Kill 5 in First Attack Since Dec

*BK1603100491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0944 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] Chittagong, Bangladesh, March 16 (AFP)—Suspected tribal rebels killed five people including two children in the first major attack in Bangladesh's southeastern Chittagong Hills since December, security sources said Saturday.

The sources said 30 Shanti Bahini rebels late Friday attacked the village of Bhuchancherra in Rangamati District, killing the Bengali-speaking Moslem settlers. They said after the recovery of four bodies early Friday, troops found another near the village. Six settlers, who were missing and presumed dead, returned to the village after hiding in nearby forests, they added.

The Buddhist rebels, mainly from the Chakma tribe, fled into jungle bordering India when troops moved in, one source said. The rebels have been waging a 16-year bush war for autonomy and the expulsion of Moslem settlers from the rugged region.

### Troops Placed on Alert

*BK1703103691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1029 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] Chittagong, Bangladesh, March 17 (AFP)—Bangladeshi troops were on alert Sunday in southeastern hill tracts to counter possible rebel attacks, security sources said. "We have information that several Shanti Bahini rebel groups have entered Bangladesh territory and were preparing to attack," one source said. The sources said security had been tightened in the 13,000 square kilometre (4,940 square mile) rugged region bordering India and Burma.

The alert comes 24 hours after an attack by suspected Shanti Bahini members late Friday left six people dead in Rangamati Hill District.

The Buddhist rebels, mostly from the Chakma tribe, have been waging a 16-year bush war for autonomy and the expulsion of Bengali-speaking Moslem settlers from the scenic region.

## India

### President Bush's Idea of New World Order Viewed

*BK1703153191 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Commentary by P.K. Bandhopadhyaya of the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA: "The Emerging World Order"]

[Text] Immediately before starting the Gulf war, apparently to prepare the world for the shock, President George Bush in a speech on 16 January highlighted the wisdom of availing of the opportunity to establish a new world order in which the conduct of nations would be governed by the rule of law and I quote, a credible United Nations can use its peacekeeping role to fulfill the promise and the vision of the UN founders, unquote. The outlines of Mr. George Bush's new world order are not yet clear, but in this context one cannot help recalling similar ideas about the new international economic order and its essential adjunct—a new world information order—sponsored by the Third World countries and supported by the UN in the 1970's and 1980's. These remain even today mostly unrealized because of the very unhelpful attitude of industrialized nations to share world resources.

Meanwhile, the world is changing fast following the near total collapse of socialism. A unipolar world is clearly in view. The cold war victory of America is now galvanized with Gulf victory. In its new mood, America now looks forward to establishing its hegemony over the world, at least so does it appear to many. Questions are being raised about the way the UN has been used for the Gulf war and the way some members of the Security Council, particularly the USSR and China, have voted and abstained from voting or vetoing. But for that, the Gulf war would, perhaps, not have been fought. This has considerably eroded the credibility of the UN system, resulting in demand for its total restructuring.

The U.S. victory in the Gulf war has enhanced its responsibility for promptly ensuring a lasting peace in the post-war West Asia involving all parties. The job is now many more times complex because of increasing oil shortage in the world, particularly in the U.S.A., Soviet Union, and Europe, and the injury inflicted by the Gulf war on the Islamic sentiment all over the world. Nor can the American economy indefinitely sustain a policy of essentially unilateral global intervention, as Dr. Kissinger rightly observed. The unipolar world will crumble of its own weight.

The world cannot be expected to tolerate for long any one country dominating over global affairs. There are already signs of new stress and strain in the U.S.-USSR relationship because of the U.S. handling of the Baltic states. China, Europe, Germany, India, Japan, and others are watching. A multipolar world with some of these countries playing vital roles is a distinct possibility.

Cross fertilization or converging of political-economic systems, particularly in East Europe, is another emerging trend. With major nations preoccupied with their pressing domestic affairs, there is not likely to be any world war in the near future, but bilateral hostilities like Iran-Iraq war or regional conflicts—often more lethal—will tend to erupt because of greater competition among countries for economic gains. Even the Gulf war was in a sense an oil war. The corollary to this is that international relationships will depend more on mutual economic interests and less on ideological, political or strategic concerns.

Efforts to reunite the two Koreas, Taiwan's new relationship with China, opening up of China, East Europe, USSR, and Vietnam, global efforts to solve the Cambodia issue are some indications. Nonalignment as a philosophy of equidistance from the superpowers has already lost its relevance, but may not be [as heard] its utility as a forum for more intense and determined South-South cooperation maybe with a new nomenclature. [Words indistinct] global village is yet to take shape and form and spirit. Meanwhile, the world needs to realize the correct implications of an interrelated and interdependent world order. In this context, pancasila—the five golden principles of coexistence—enunciated in Bandung way back in 1955 at the initiative of the late Jawahar Lal Nehru and other Asian leaders—has resumed new relevance.

## Editorial Praises Bush Move in Middle East

*BK1603140391 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 9 Mar 91 p 8*

[Editorial: "A Well-Timed Move"]

[Text] By giving a high priority to the Palestinian issue so soon after the Gulf war, President Bush has taken the most important step towards the achievement of a durable peace in West Asia. The infliction of a crushing defeat on the Iraqi invaders of Kuwait by the US-led alliance, is no doubt likely to serve as a stern warning to other potential military adventurers tempted by territorial conquests. But if the three West Asian wars of 1956, 1967 and 1973 have shown anything, it is that the region will know neither stability nor peace so long as the Arab-Israeli conflict over the creation of a separate Palestinian homeland remains unresolved. Rightly or wrongly most Arabs have so far seemed to have assumed that it is no use expecting the US to use its immense clout in genuinely promoting the Palestinian cause since it has made no secret of its vital interest in the survival and progress of Israel. The basis problem, in other words, has been to reconcile the Israeli need for credible security guarantees with the recognition of the Palestinians' political rights.

The US itself has proposed various plans to achieve this twin objective and these have given rise to most of the frenetic diplomatic goings-on in the region since the last Arab-Israeli war of 1973. But President Bush is now trying to turn the focus on to this question in wholly different and far more favourable circumstances. The most significant new element is the identity of political purpose between the US on the one hand and eight influential Arab countries which was forged during the war for the liberation of Kuwait and which, hopefully, will now be extended to fulfil Palestinian aspirations as well. If the Arabs in general have been estranged from the governments of these American allies, as the misguided critics of the war against Iraq would have us believe, then President Bush could not have done better *to shore up their domestic standing than to renew the* American pledge to work towards a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian problem. He has specifically mentioned in this connection the two Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 which brought fighting to an end in the 1967 and 1973 wars. They also provide a framework for resolving the problem. It will be no exaggeration to say that persuading Israel to play ball and stop thwarting a just Palestinian settlement will put the American diplomatic skill to the most serious test yet. Unless it does so, Washington will continue to be accused in the Arab world of paying only lip-service to the Palestinian cause. So, the US Secretary of State, Mr James Baker's current visit to West Asia will be watched with special interest.

## Commentary Reviews U.S. Aid Cut to Pakistan

*BK1503135091 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Commentary by Dr. Chintamani Mahapatra of Institute for Defense Studies and Analysis in New Delhi: "American Aid Cut to Pakistan"]

[Text] More than five months have passed since the American military and economic assistance for Pakistan got suspended following the refusal of the Bush administration to issue the annual certification to the U.S. Congress stating that Pakistan did not possess a nuclear device. It is ironic that Washington decided to cut aid to a strategic ally at a time when its cooperation would have been required to deal with yet another crisis that erupted in the Persian Gulf with the Iraqi annexation of Kuwait. However, nothing of the sort happened throughout the Persian Gulf war despite Islamabad's indirect cooperation with the American war efforts. The question remains as to why the United States chose to take such action against a strategic ally who sided with the Americans throughout the Afghanistan crisis in the fight against the Soviet troops stationed in that country.

Some analysts had expressed the opinion that the U.S. policy was to punish those who staged a quasi military coup overthrowing the democratically-elected government of Benazir Bhutto on the 6th of August last year by taking advantage of the eruption of the Gulf crisis four days earlier. Others considered it the outcome of the changing American security perceptions and the requirements in the post-cold war environment. It seems plausible that the U.S. policymakers by September last had made up their minds to sternly deal with Islamabad's nuclear adventure. A few days ago, officials of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, and the Intelligence and Research Bureau of the State Department told the members of the House Subcommittee on Asia that Pakistan had not put to rest any of the accumulative evidence pointing to the existence of an indisputable nuclear weapon capability.

The U.S. aid cut policy led to an immediate stoppage of all consignments and shipments of military equipment and hardware to Pakistan. Pakistan's officials have expressed their worries that the suspension of aid, if prolonged, may adversely affect many sophisticated weapons, including the F-16 aircraft, by rendering them nonfunctional.

As far as the economic assistance is concerned, roughly $700 to $750 million that has already been obligated to Pakistan, would not be affected by the recent aid cut. Nevertheless, if the aid suspension persists, its effect on this country that spends over 42 percent of its fiscal resources on old debt servicing and 39 percent on defense will be tremendous.

The political fallout of the U.S. aid cut was quickly felt last October during election campaigns in Pakistan. When the new government was headed by Nawaz Sharif, Washington made known its desire to do business with the former, but did not promise to ask Congress for the waiver of the Pressler amendment. As a result, the Nawaz Sharif government began to preach self-reliance.

The chief of the Army Staff, General Aslam Beg, bragged about his country's nuclear capability after about two months of the aid cut in a speech delivered at Wah. Once again two months later, he told a group of journalists that Pakistan was (?growing) so strong that even its enemy India could not even think of attacking the country. The general's comment coincided with Pakistan's nuclear scientist A.Q. Khan's disclosure that Pakistan can enrich uranium to a level needed to develop nuclear weapons.

As Pakistanis have been (?markedly) anti-Indian all along, their policies—military as well as diplomatic—have been targeted against India. While the Americans have supplied sophisticated weapons to Pakistan earlier to deal with the so-called Soviet threat, it is known to all and sundry, including the U.S. policymakers that Islamabad's ambition is to arm itself to deal with the so-called Indian threat. As the Americans have already realized the futility of the Soviet threat, at least now they should change their military assistance policy toward Pakistan, a country that never considered Soviet Union as a threat and ever saw an enemy in India.

The present U.S. policy is certainly a welcome development which, if taken to its logical conclusion, will curb Pakistan's nuclear ambitions. Although the Bush administration has requested Congress $259.4 million assistance to Pakistan for the final year 1992, it has simultaneously made it clear that aid flow will be contingent upon Pakistan abandoning the nuclear path. However, we still have to wait and see. If the issue is resolved soon, it may indicate that Washington has prepared itself to deal with a Pakistan that has already gone nuclear.

## China To Cooperate in Gulf Reconstruction

*BK1503132491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] India and China are to explore the possibility of collaboration in reconstruction activities in the Gulf. This was agreed to at a meeting between the visiting vice chairman of the Chinese Planning Commission, Mr. (Guang Zhu), and the commerce minister, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, in New Delhi today. They also exchanged views on bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

## Vice President Returns From Indian Ocean Tour

*BK1703041591 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] The vice president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, arrived in New Delhi last night after an eight-day official visit to Seychelles, Mauritius, and Maldives. Talking to newsmen on board his special aircraft on way back from Male, Dr. Sharma described his visit as very fruitful. He said his mission was to bring India and the countries in the Indian Ocean closer to each other.

## Gandhi Urges 'Peaceful, Free, and Fair' Elections

*BK1603144891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] The Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, has appealed to all the concerned to ensure that the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls are held in a democratic manner. In a statement issued in New Delhi today, he said in the prevailing situation it is imperative that the Election Commission and the government in consultation with political parties take appropriate steps to guarantee peaceful, free, and fair elections. He said there is widespread apprehension that these elections may turn out to be the most violent ever.

In a letter to the chief election commissioner, Mr. T.N. Seshan, the party general secretary, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, suggested convening a meeting of political parties to discuss the steps needed for a peaceful poll.

## New Assam, Goa Governors Appointed 15 Mar

*BK1503151491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] New governors have been appointed for Assam and Goa. According to a Rashtrapati Bhavan [president house] communique issued this evening, Mr. Lok Nath Mishra, a former member of parliament, will be the Assam governor. He succeeds Mr. D.D. Thakur who resigned this morning. Mr. Mishra will hold additional charge as governor of Arunachal Pradesh.

The president has also appointed Mr. Bhanu Prakash Singh, a former union minister, as governor of Goa. He will also be the administrator for the union territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

## No Decision on Elections in Kashmir, Punjab

*BK1603091091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] The center is in touch with the administrations in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, and Assam to assess the law and order situation and to find out if it could improve for holding the assembly polls in these states now under president's rule along with the Lok Sabha elections due in May. Disclosing this at a press meet organized by the Foreign Correspondents Association of Southeast Asia in New Delhi yesterday, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said a final decision about holding these assembly polls is, however, yet to be taken. He denied reports of any likely alliance between the Janata Dal-S and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] in the coming elections.

On [job] reservation issue, the prime minister reiterated his opinion that it should be based on caste as well as on social and economic backwardness. He observed that before taking any final decision on reservation, more job opportunities should be created.

On the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid [temple-mosque] issue, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said a decision was possible, but the current political situation has put hurdles.

## Shekhar Comments on Punjab, Assam Elections

*BK1703092191 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] The prime minister has said that even assembly elections are possible in Punjab and Assam if the situation in two the states improves between now and the announcement of dates for the mid-term Lok Sabha poll. He said the only assurance the government wants is that there is no violence and that parliamentary institutions will not be used to subvert democracy. Mr. Chandra Shekhar was talking to newsmen at Delhi Airport on his return from Cochin last night. He said it is not material who wins or loses, but people should not be coerced to take a decision.

On the change of the governor in Assam, the prime minister said it was done only for administrative reasons. Mr. Chandra Shekhar ruled out the possibility of an alliance between the Janata Dal-S and the Congress-I. When asked about the Congress-I claim that it did not withdraw support to his government, the prime minister said support cannot be extended by remote control but has to be shown on the floor of parliament.

About his party's strategy in the coming elections, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said it will strive for bringing about a change for the better and for purposeful reconstruction of the country. He said his government has made a sincere effort to solve the problems facing the nation and has succeeded to a certain degree. On the claim of some parties that they can provide stability, Mr. Chandra

Shekhar said if they do not know solutions to the various problems, stability will only mean status quo and stagnation.

## Bihar Unit of Lok Dal Merges With Janata Dal-S

*BK1703133091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] In Bihar, the state unit of the Lok Dal has merged with the Janata Dal-S. This was announced by the president of the state unit of the Janata Dal-S, Mr. Raghunath Jha, at a news conference in Patna today. Replying to a question, he said the Janata Dal-S proposes to contest all the Lok Sabha seats in Bihar.

## BJP Rejects Alliance With Parties in Elections

*BK1603125691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] will not have alliance with other parties in the ensuing Lok Sabha elections. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the party vice president, Mr. Sunder Singh Bhandari, said in the (?national) interest some seats may be left for the smaller regional parties or groups like Uttarakhand Kranti Dal [Revolutionary Party] in Uttar Pradesh and MGP [Maharashtravadi Gomantak Party] in Goa. He said old arrangements with Shiv Sena [right-wing Hindu militant party] in Maharasahtra will continue.

Replying to questions, Mr. Bhandari said the BJP national excecutive at its meeting in New Delhi has identified 450 seats in which party candidates will contest. He, however, said that the final picture will emerge after elections for the assemblies are also announced.

Ruling out adjustment of seats in the four southern states, Mr. Bhandari said that his party has so far identified 90 seats out of the total 132 seats in Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

## Delhi Radio Details Preparations for Elections

*BK1703101091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] With the Election Commission working overtime to finalize the dates and other details for the coming Lok Sabha polls, the election scene in the country is slowly warming up. Although a clear picture is yet to emerge about alliances and seat adjustments, ticket seekers have started crowding the central offices of various political parties in the capital.

The National Front and the left parties have already announced their decision to fight the elections jointly. The Bharatiya Janata Party has said it will leave about 100 of the 450 seats it intends to contest for regional parties or groups, but ruled out any alliance with other parties at the national level.

The Congress-I and the Janata Dal-S have also indicated that while there is little possibility of any alliance at the national level, there might be seat adjustments with the regional parties. Interestingly, none of the parties has so far talked about straight contest which was a prominent feature in the 1989 elections.

The Congress-I president has already launched his party's election campaign from Bhopal yesterday, while other national parties have announced the dates on which they plan to begin their electioneering. Party ideologues are busy giving finishing touches to the election manifestos which are expected to be published soon.

## West Bengal To Hold Assembly Elections in May

*BK1803100891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Mar 91*

[Text] The West Bengal cabinet has approved the decision to hold assembly elections in the state simultaneously with ensuing Lok Sabha poll in May. The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the Cabinet in Calcutta today. The Left Front Committee had already taken a decision to this effect.

# Iran

## Hashemi-Rafsanjani Inspects Western Provinces

### Attends Oil Ministry Session

*LD1503223991 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, in a session attended by the oil minister, the directors of the oil and petrochemical industries, and the governor-general of Khuzestan, which was held in Mahshahr on Friday evening in the presence of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, issues related to the oil and petrochemical industry were discussed and reviewed. During the session, the oil minister, the director of Iran's petrochemical company, and one of the directors in charge of the oil-producing regions discussed the current trend of the crude oil production, the projects under implementation, and the latest investments in the oil industries of those regions. Then Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, having emphasized the need to implement the project to increase crude oil production in 1370 [year beginning 21 March] called on the Oil Ministry to provide financial assistance towards the reconstruction and the refurbishment of the oil company's residential units in Abadan and Mahshadr.

### Visits Abadan Refinery, Khorramshar

*LD1503185191 Tehran IRNA in English 1335 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] Abadan (Khuzestan), Mar. 15, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today visited Abadan refinery rebuilt after the Iraqi war by Iranian engineers and technicians, and called the accomplishments a "golden page" in the history of Iran.

He told refinery workers that foreign specialists never expected that Iran would be able to rebuild the oil industry without relying on foreign expertise.

He also inspected the distillation unit Number 80 of the refinery, which is to become operational as of April 1. The unit is to produce 2.5 million liters of petrol, 7 million liters of semi-distilled products, 7 million liters of mazut [liquid distillation residue used as fuel oil] and 400 tons of liquified natural gas daily, thereby making Iran self-sufficient in those areas.

The president later went around war-damaged areas in Abadan and Khorramshahr, and inspected on-going rehabilitation projects.

He expressed hope that the once thriving port-cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr and the entirety of Khuzestan would shortly be transformed into "well-built and well-developed areas."

In the village of Abu-Kashanak, he talked to local people expressing pleasure that their houses have been rebuilt and that they now live in more decent houses than they did before the war.

Rafsanjani later addressed the Friday prayer gathering in Abadan as a pre-sermon speaker, telling worshippers that thousands of billions of rials have been earmarked for the rebuilding of Khuzestan. He assured them that the province would be rebuilt "even into a better shape than before."

The president who arrived here Wednesday as part of his inspection tour of Western provinces, flew over war-ruined areas in Khuzestan for four hours aboard a helicopter shortly after his arrival, and later talked to people in the towns of Susangerd and Bostan in the Dasht-e Azadegan region. He lauded the resistance shown by people in Khuzestan during the war years with Iraq, and expressed hope that the Iranian and the Iraqi people would live together as "friendly nations".

### Opens Chemical Complex

*NC1603080791 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani opened the di-ammonium phosphate plant at the Zakariya Razi chemical complex at Bandar-e Imam Khomeyni. The entire plant was completed by Iranian specialists and contractors and is part of the development plan for attaining self-sufficiency in the agricultural sector. The plant can produce 700 tons of chemical fertilizer per day, which provides for more than 20 percent of the country's phosphate needs.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed his appreciation of the efforts of the employees of the Zakariya Razi chemical complex at Bandar-e Imam Khomeyni and inspected the various departments of this unit. This unit, which is the world's third chemical fertilizer production facility—Turkey and the Netherlands have the other ones—became operational in 40 days. Work began the last week of December and lasted until 1 February.

This plant is capable of producing di-ammonium phosphate, phosphoric acid, ammoniac and sulfuric acid. All the installing operations were carried out by Iranian experts and specialists.

### Discusses Reconstruction Trend

*LD1603225391 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Interview with President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani by unidentified reporter in Tehran on 16 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] Mr. President, thank you for this interview. First, having visited the war-damaged provinces, how do you assess the quality and trend of the reconstruction? How much credit have you earmarked for reconstruction this year?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: There are a few things I would like to mention before answering your questions. In general, my main purpose in taking that trip was to inspect the trend of reconstruction in the war-stricken areas and those regions that sustained damage as a result of direct enemy attack. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Mr. Rafsanjani, would you please inform us of the amount of credit allocated for reconstruction this year?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] So far we have set aside around 27 billion tomans in our budget. During that trip, however, I realized that amount was insufficient, since there are more areas in need of reconstruction, and we have stipulated in the government policy that we have to allocate whatever sum the reconstruction requires, since it is not in our interest to leave them in their state of ruin. Those people are homeless and need to return to their work and resume their normal lives as soon as possible. Previously, we believed that our restrictions were caused by a shortage of construction material, but in that trip we realized that we were not limited in that respect. I believe that our credit will be more than 100 billion [currency not specified].

[Reporter] Mr. President, you also inspected the oil industries of Khuzestan Province. How do you assess that inspection? You were also present during the commissioning of two important petrochemical projects. How did you assess the efforts of the experts?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I found them very good. That took place in the last part of my trip. I found the work of the experts highly satisfactory with regard to both the phosphate fertilizer project and the petrochemical complex. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Mr. Rafsanjani, you have greatly emphasized the need for increasing oil production this year. How are we to achieve this increase?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The project is clear; that is to say the oil minister has forwarded a set of clear proposals in terms of increased excavation and the other tasks that need to be done. The credit has been approved, and the Central Bank has been entrusted to support it. The work has already started. The first part was carried out successfully last year, and another part will be carried out this year. However, our effort at increasing our production capacity does not mean we will produce that amount, since we have a quota in OPEC and will content ourselves with that quota, but our production capacity must certainly reach an optimal level, and it will do so in the next two years.

[Reporter] Would you please tell us of the results of your trip to the war-damaged and industrial areas of Khuzestan?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We will see the results in the future. [passage omitted].

As for Khuzestan Province, the Bostan reconstruction work is nearing completion. [passage omitted]

We made a brief stop in Dasht-e Azadegan, the reconstruction of which was already completed. [passage omitted]

In Abadan and Khorramshahr, which are among the significant areas under reconstruction, I noticed that the allocated funds were used constructively. As I have been informed by the officials, at the moment there are 130,000 people in Abadan and around 70,000 people in Khorramshahr. There was a revival in both those cities. [passage omitted] Fortunately, the oil minister has agreed to begin the work on contructing the gas pipelines of those two areas, which was not stipulated in the original reconstruction plans, to avoid a redigging of the streets. The reconstruction of the oil refinery, which is the center of activity of Abadan and that region, is, fortunately, improving, and the second phase will soon be inaugurated, which will take its production level to 280,000 barrels, which is a good figure. I concluded, however, that we must restore everything in the refinery to its original conditions, maintain the original chain, and modernize it. The security of the area is not the way it was before, and with the unrest that is currently taking place in Iraq, we are pretty certain that that area will, God willing, remain secure forever, hence allowing us to make investments.

Previously, our investments were made amid much concern, but that is no longer the case. We must make the Shatt al Arab active. I inspected the Shatt al Arab, where they are constructing a fortress, the work on which we began during the war. The construction of the fortress is near completion. The fortress takes over an area of 80, 90, or nearly 100 km, and will make the shores of Shatt al Arab a good route, and a defensive stronghold, as well as facilitating access to Shatt al Arab. I hereby stress the need to construct some bridges. At the moment, the majority of the canals are open, and the palm groves are irrigated, but all the canals must be opened so that all those palm groves which were irrigated by Shatt al Arab will be irrigated in future, and so that the people may also reap the benefits. I also visited the surrounding villages, which constituted some of the highlights of my visit. I visited both the east and the west of Bahmanshir, as well as (Arvand-Kenar). [passage omitted] The dredging of Shatt al-'Arab and Bahmanshir are among our important tasks. That area will become more active once the dredging has been completed. We have decided to expedite that process. The bridge between Khorrahmshar and Abadan is, thanks to the Ministry of Roads, in its final phases and will be very effective. From what I saw of the project for Khorramshahr, I am certain that it will make Khorramshahr much better than it was in the past. It will become a modern city. After the reconstruction, the people can forget all their losses becasue they will be given a much better city. The port must be reactivated as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Your Excellency also visited the provinces of Ilam and Bakhtaran. What is your assessment of reconstruction there?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The situation is similar to the one in Khuzestan Province with one difference: In those provinces, there are some towns in which reconstruction has not yet begun because they were out of our control for some time during the war, and they have been totally destroyed. After the cease-fire, too, the necessary security did not exist. They were too close to the line.

In Qasr-e Shirin, for example, the streets have only just been delineated, the town council has been set up, the warehouse for storing construction material has been built so that construction material can be taken there, water and electricity have been restored, and the people have been invited to reconstruct. While I was there they told me that up until today, 25 building permits have been issued. With a town of that size, things are just beginning. We must work harder to make up for the delay there. [passage omitted]

Agriculture in the region requires a great deal of work. There is a lot of water in the region—we began at Alvand River and went down to Khuzestan—there are rivers brimming with water which are flowing into Iraq. One really feels sorry for this country and about how it has been neglected in the past. Now, dams are being studied. I must stress this point to the Energy Ministry; cooperate with it, help it so that it can quickly harness the water so that we can use it. Some of it may also be of use to the Iraqis because, at the moment, during the rainy season, the water flows into marshes and then into the Tigris and the Persian Gulf. But, if we harness it, the people of the region will really benefit. I want to stress this point. [passage omitted]

I saw one other serious problem in those two provinces, and that is the remaining uncleared war areas. There are still mines; there are unexploded shells. They told me that there are casualties every day. Sheep go there; shepherds go there; nomadic tribes; people from the villages want to go there. When there is an incident, people are disheartened because they expect the Armed Forces to do more. Of course, a lot has been done. The area is very extensive. There, we spoke to the western commanders of the Army and the corps. We decided to accelerate clearing operations. The issue of transport permits was posing problems for people in some areas. It was decided that the relevant council will approve the abolition of the permits so that people can travel freely, except for areas which are still dangerous. [passage omitted]

I wanted to visit the people of Mahshahr, but I ran out of time. There is one point I want to mention here—namely that the region of Mahshahr and Bandar-e Khomeyni sustained a great deal of damage during the war because of problems caused by refugees and by the enemy. The area was under constant bombardment because the area was so sensitive. We must give them something for reconstruction. We spoke to the oil minister and asked him to speed up the gas link to the area. That was one of the requests of the people there, which was conveyed to me by the town's deputy. We must give them something to compensate for the damage they sustained behind the front.

The same applies in Shadegan. In Shadegan, in the village that I went to, the people are Arabs. They were so enthusiastic, especially so because they feel that an improvement is taking place in the situation in Iraq. The anxiety that existed before between the people of Iran and Iraq because of conditions in the past—these things hurt their morale to some extent. They are very cheerful now. They were enthusiastic and lively. I hope the conditions of security which are coming about between us and Iraq will help us improve joint affairs.

[Reporter] By way of a last question, are you, on the whole, satisfied with the reconstruction process?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I am extremely pleased. [passage omitted] On the whole, I think some very pride-inspiring work is being done in our country, but the damage is much higher than has been announced so far. We have spoken of direct damage which we have seen. For example, we had previously assessed [damage in] Abadan and Khorramshahr to the tune of about 600 billion rials. However, during a meeting there, the governor general explained that it is over 1 trillion rials. Up until now we had been saying that there was $600 billion in direct damage and about $300 billion in indirect damage, but, with what I have seen, it is more than that.

[Reporter] Thank you very much for this interview.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I, too, would like to thank everyone who assisted me on this trip: reporters, officials, and the people. We hope that we can give more support so that this humanitarian task can be completed as soon as possible.

## President Comments on Internal Iraqi Situation

### Sees Disgust Over 'Massacre'

*LD1703160291 Tehran IRNA in English 1504 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 17, IRNA—The president today said the Iranian Muslims were becoming "disgusted over the massacre of the Iraqi people by the Republican Guards."

Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that the Islamic Republic should be vigilant towards the internal developments in Iraq, coupled with a correct understanding of the objectives of the U.S. and its allies in the region.

He told a group of ulema who called on him, that "we should watch the situation carefully and take position after comprehensive consultation."

The situation in the Middle East, particularly in the Persian Gulf, the president said is "very sensitive, complicated and vague".

Regional security will be maintained through sincerity, adoption of prudent policies, and a true good-will by the regional countries towards the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said.

### Stresses Unity Between Clerics, People

*LD1703181291 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Excerpts] On the eve of the auspicious month of Ramadan, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani addressed a large group of clerics, Friday imams, preachers, and Tehran seminarians. In his speech he described the situation in the Middle East, especially the Persian Gulf, as extremely sensitive, complex, and significant [mohem]. He emphasized the need to remain vigilant with regard to the trend of internal developments in Iraq and to maintain a sound awareness of the objectives of the United States and its allies.

In this meeting, the President also stressed the necessity of preserving unity between the clerics and the people, and the integrity of the Islamic revolution. He added: The clerics must maintain their solidarity by avoiding factionalism and discord, and consider solidarity as a principle. [passage omitted on need to improve welfare measures]

Expressing concern over the internal situation in Iraq, the president voiced the Muslim Iranian nation's disgust at the massacre of the Iraqi people by that country's

Republican Guards. He said that the Islamic Republic of Iran must remain alert in the face of the trend of regional developments and the internal situation in Iraq. He stressed that regional security can only be maintained through expressions of sincerity, the adoption of prudent policies, and the demonstration of goodwill by the regional countries toward the Islamic Republic of Iran.

## Musavi-Ardebili Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

*LD1503152891 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1130 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Friday sermons by Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardebili at Tehran University on 15 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

Yet another point that we must note during the holy month of Ramadan: We must safeguard our revolution. We must build up our own character; we must help the dispossessed, and we must help people to help themselves. [passage omitted] At the same time, however, we must guard our revolution. The holy month of Ramadan is the best time to do this because the people are ready to hear, to preach, and to act upon what we preach. We must thank God that people do so.

I would like to cite an example—one I wish will never be forgotten. This is the historic edict of his eminence the imam on Salman Rushdie. What the imam did must not be allowed to be forgotten; it must not be allowed to lapse from mind.

I read in the newspapers that his excellency Mr. Mehrdad Kowkabi is coming to Iran. At long last he was set free. He came to Iran. That reminded me instantly of Salman Rushdie. The imam said: Salman Rushdie must be executed. In theological circles scholars are debating what kind of an edict it was that the imam issued. Is it an edict orginating from a government? Or is it an edict originating from the guardianship status [hokm-e vola'i]? Or is it a judicial edict? Or is it a fatwa?

Perhaps some may think that the edict is a governmental order. In my view it is a judicial edict because the edict either refers to an insult to the Prophet, or to a rejection of the Prophet. It must be one of these two. Neither of these two can be the subject matter of an edict that one can issue according to one's status as a guardian of the cause. If it is an insult to the Prophet or to his scion, then a verdict on that crime has already been issued—by god, by Imam Sadiq, by Imam Baqir [both among the 12 Shiite imams]. The verdict is there: Anybody who insults the Prophet must be killed. He must be killed and nothing can be done about. His repentance cannot be accepted. That is the consensus of Shiite ulema.

As to majority ulema: Abu-Hanifah [founder of Hanafi school] has said that such a wrongdoer's repentence can be accepted. That is because he Abu-Hanifah does not believe that the insulting of the Prophet is a special title in theology. [passage omitted]

The imam's edict, however, is based on Shiite theology. That is the point. [passage omitted]

Therefore, the edict is a judicial edict. Neither the head of Egypt's al-Azhar University, nor this or that learned man from Algeria, nor somebody who lives in such and such a place can invalidate the edict—unless they belong to the Hanafi sect, members of which may say that they do not accept Sab-al-Nabi [punishment for insulting the Prophet]. Well, that is a different case. [passage omitted]

The point that I would like to make in the second sermon concerns the responsibility of us Muslims toward the enemies of the revolution and Islam, headed by the great satan, at this juncture. Everyone is aware of the existing situation in Iraq, Kuwait, the Persian Gulf, and Saudi Arabia—aware of the actions, the situation, and the factionalism. There are three or four issues among all this. With all the massacre and bloodshed that is occurring now in Iraq, the indecisiveness in Kuwait, the dizziness among the governments of the region, the suffering, pain, and anxiety that the people are experiencing—in the middle of all of this, America has a particular aim.

It seems that America has reached its aims to a certain extent. It is happy, it calls itself the victor of this war. One of the main aims of America was to get hold of the region, to enable it to take control of the oil situation. America has come now and is sitting in the Persian Gulf; it wants to have seven or eight air bases here. In a roundabout way, it is saying: All right, we came, but we do not think we can take leave of you so soon; we are staying now at your service. This is what they have done. First, guarantee Israel's security—it thinks it has done this to a certain extent. Iraq was a threat, Iraq is destroyed. Others around Israel cannot do anything either. Israel can now relax and carry out its task of being the gendarme of the region. Of course, there is one point detrimental to America—I do not know if America has taken this point into account: The Islamic revolution and other trends on the fringes of the islamic revolution have sown the seeds of anti-Americanism in the region. This is what we feel: After the actions that it took and is continuing to take in the Middle East, in the Persian Gulf, the anti-American feeling will increase. I think everyone hates America now, except those who are eating out of America's hand. The imam used to speak of the Great Satan, and now everyone feels that this phrase completely suits America. [crowd chants in support]

Everyone knows the Great Satan perfectly well. Enough about that.

Does the Great Satan want Saddam to go, or does it want to keep his corpse in case it comes in handy one day? This is not clear. It is not clear whether or not America wants Saddam to go. Of course, if it does not, it is definitely because it wants to keep Saddam, maybe someday make a bogeyman out of him for the great

Islamic revolution of Iran. If it does, then it does not have that in mind. So much for Saddam.

Regarding Iraq, does America want Iraq to be dismembered or not? This is not very clear to us either. Of course it would like a western government to come to power in Iraq that is the lackey of America and Israel and will accept all that it is told. If this materializes, it will be the culmination of America's desire. But will it do so?

Now for regional governments. First, they must be vigilant so that Iraq does not become dismembered, at any cost. Whatever it costs, these governments must pay the price and prevent the dismemberment of Iraq. Otherwise they will make the great satan even more profligate. America must be thwarted where Iraq's dismemberment is concernned. This is one issue.

The next issue is that America must not have any rights in the security of the region. By what right did it come from the other side of the world and claim to want to make the region secure? If it does anything it is in its own interests. Do its interests tend in the same direction as those of the people of the region? Definitely not. Decidedly, they are in conflict. There is no doubt about it. As for this conflict, should the interests of the host [sahebkhaney] be considered, or the interests of the newcomer, the unwanted guest? The security of the region must be maintained by its people. Iraq's territorial integrity must be safeguarded. The Iraqi Government must be such...[changes thought] In Iraq there are 14 million human beings. They must have the right to decide their own destiny, just as we say that we have the right to decide our own destiny. Everyone says the same. The right to decide the destiny of any nation rests in the hands of that nation itself. There is no right of interference for anyone, wherever he comes from.

Mr. Bush has himself gone and destroyed a nation, and then he says, totally without shame, that Iran is interfering. In what way is Iran interfering? What is it doing? What are we doing other than saying that Saddam was a kind of blight? He brought calamity upon the people, and God, for his part, afflicted him in this way. Now, too, he refuses to go. Leave the people alone. Hand the wrecked country over to the people. Let them decide what on earth they are supposed to do, how they are supposed to live, how they should strive to reconstruct. Do not prolong this fratricide any longer.

Really, the bombs that they dropped on them, the resources they destroyed, the reserves they destroyed, the independence they tarnished, the condition to which they brought the country—was this not interference in internal affairs? If someone now says that the poor Iraqi people are now suffering once again at the hands of their own people, is that interference in Iraqi affairs?

Iraq must—and Muslim nations, whoever is a Muslim, must—the right of selecting the government belongs to the Iraqi people [sentence as heard]. Iraqi independence must be maintained. Iraq cannot be dismembered. The security of the region, too, must be provided by the people of the region themselves. [crowd chants in support] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

## Meshkini Sermon Discusses Iraq

*LD1503213391 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1428 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Second Friday prayers sermon given by Qom Imam 'Ali Meshkini in Qom on 15 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] Today's important issue is the Persian Gulf. The Persian Gulf issue has turned into a major issue, and one of the great calamities of the Islamic world. Our Islamic governments—that is, those governments which we know as Islamic, specifically those of the Persian Gulf littorals—revealed their weakness; they manifested their dependency; they manifested their choice, which is that of being slaves; their true nature—be it Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, or the others—came to light. They all bowed their head in submission to the infidels. They all showed weakness. They showed great weakness.

The country which stood firm and steadfast in the face of all powers, without showing any sign of weakness—God created you a free man, so do not humiliate yourself [quotation said in Arabic]—was Iran. [passage omitted] The Persian Gulf issue is a very important one. Let us wait and see how it ends.

A significant point to be mentioned here is that, even though Saddam has been a dictator for nearly 20 years, committing genocide, and rising against the masters on whom he waged a war, and invading Kuwait—after which they [as heard] rushed from every corner in order to topple Saddam, and albeit all the malicious propaganda they waged against him, describing him as a wolf, a beast, and that is how he is in reality—suddenly all their hue and cry died down. They no longer say much about Saddam, or level many malicious remarks against him. Why? Because they noticed that they were losing, as Saddam was being toppled to be replaced by a divine, Islamic, national and self-reliant government. They stipulated that Saddam and his atrocities would be better for them than a newly-established fundamentalist government.

In other words, they considered that they can strike deals with Saddam, irrespective of his nature, that they can reach a compromise with him, whereas they cannot do so with the establishment of an Islamic government.

As the imam [Khomeyni] once said, they have been slapped in the face by Islam. Yes, they have. Now they have set their minds on doing something else. I fear that tomorrow they may come to Saddam and declare war on him. Brothers! Recognize the Iraqi nation, today. [passage omitted] Your brothers are currently targets of the fires of Saddam and blasphemy. They are fighting with bare hands, the way you did. Pray for them. [passage omitted] Pray for Iraq. Help Iraq. People: Today will pass. People: As I have incessantly mentioned, 100 years ago, such a situation did not exist. Jerusalam did not exist. [passage omitted]

People: Help the Iraqi nation. They are suffering. They are being trampled under Saddam's feet. Provide them with assistance, whether through your government, or by whatever means you may have—of which I may not be aware—at your disposal. Today is a day on which whomsoever hears, but ignores a cry, is a traitor to Islam.

There are also other whispers being uttered around the world, which revolve around their [as heard] fear that the Iraqi government [corrects himself] the Iraqi nation might succeed in establishing an Islamic government. Such a phenomenon would spell disaster for Israel. Those bigshots from various corners have been saying that the time has come for the Islamic countries to make peace with Israel, to establish borders with Israel. They say that the Palestinians' rights must also be observed, that the Palestinians must give their endorsement to this plan from where they are. The Palestinians must pledge that the rebellious Palestinian brothers and sisters, who have been awakened by Islam to the extent that they do not harbor fear of dying, will not accept Israel giving them that area while it continues to remain there. [sentence as heard] Israel is a usurper. Israel must evacuate the entire Palestine, and go elsewhere. [crowd chants in support: God is great! Death to Israel! Death to America!] [passage omitted]

## Paper Says Saddam's Fate Same as Ceausescu

*LD1703180591 Tehran IRNA in English 1628 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] Tehran, March 17, IRNA—An Iranian daily Sunday wrote Saddam is a bully versus the weak who "did not use his (?weapons of) destruction against the Zionists or Americans, but never hesitates to massacre defenseless women and children."

'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' in its editorial lashed out at the weak encounter of the elite Presidential Guards against the [word indistinct] forces saying that they "either fled the battlefield or surrendered while kissing the American troops' feet."

It added that the same guards are deploying chemical weapons and massacring people "to rescue the Iraqi dictator who has brought defeat, humiliation, devastation and now death to thousands of his countrymen."

Referring to the trend of developments in Iraq, the daily warned that "Saddam's destiny seems no different from that of Romania's strongman Ceausescu."

## Iraqi Leaders Urged To Submit To People's Will

*LD1603171391 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] The Supreme National Security Council [SNSC] held a session this evening under the chairmanship of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The session was attended by its members, political advisors, and high-ranking military commanders. During the session, the council reviewed the latest situation regarding the crisis in Iraq and the region and expressed concern over the massacre of the people of Iraq by government forces. Also, the violation of the sanctity of the holy sites in Najaf and Karbala' was condemned and a warning issued to the Iraqi Government in that respect. It was announced at the session that the Islamic Republic of Iran, while continuing its humanitarian aid to Iraq, regards the current events—which are taking place under conditions of the destruction inflicted on Iraq by the multinational forces led by the United States, the impact and results of which will be a cause of suffering for the Iraqi people—as an irredeemable blow to Iraq, and while rejecting the seditions allegations about Iran's intervention, considers the surrender of the Iraqi Government to the will of the Nation and to the consensus of the people to be the only solution to save Iraq.

## 'Day of Mourning' Declared For Iraqi Violence

### Leader's Bureau Issues Statement

*LD1703172391 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] Dear viewers, please pay attention to a report we received just now:

The Esteemed Leader's [Ayatollah Khamene'i] Bureau issued the following statement in connection with the tragic events in Iraq:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In view of the violation and insult against the holy shrines in al-Najaf and holy Karbala', and in view of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime's onslaught on the sacred sanctuary of God's imams—may peace be upon them all—and the massacre of the Muslim and defenseless people of Iraq by the Ba'thist criminals, the esteemed leader declares a day of mourning for tomorrow. It is hoped that the Muslim and revolutionary people of Iran, in these holy nights [of Ramadan], will attend mosques and religious gatherings to say prayers and plead with almighty God for victory of Islam and Muslims, and defeat and annihilation of Islam's enemies.

[Signed] The Esteemed Leader's Bureau

### Groups Observe Mourning

*LD1803115291 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Mar 91*

[Text] Following the declaration of public mourning by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Revolution, to mark the insult to and the violation of the sanctity of Iraq's holy places and the killing of Iraq's Muslim people by the Ba'thist Iraqi regime, the coordination council of the Islamic Propagation Organization issued a statement pledging obedience to the command of the Guardian of Muslims [Khamene'i] and condemning the criminal actions of the Ba'thist Iraqi regime in insulting and violating the sanctity of holy places and the holy shrines in al-Najaf and Karbala'.

The statement calls on compatriots throughout the country to congregate in mosques and religious gatherings during the blessed nights of the month of Ramadan to pray for the liberation of the oppressed Muslim Iraqi nation and for the annihilation of the enemies of Islam and Muslims and to declare their all-sided support for the uprising of the Muslim Iraqi nation.

According to the central news unit, the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps also issued a statement in this connection declaring it incumbent on all the world's Muslims and free thinkers to further condemn that regime's crimes by announcing their revulsion over the actions of the regime ruling Iraq and their sympathy with that country's oppressed people.

## Daily Urges Upgrading Missile Defense Systems

*LD1703190491 Tehran IRNA in English 1804 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 17, IRNA—In a commentary titled 'A Military Lesson From the P.G. War', an English daily called for upgrading of the country's air defense system.

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL wrote that the 6-week war between the U.S.-led forces and Iraq conveyed a "very important military message" for the Third World countries and particularly the Islamic Republic of Iran and that is "the importance and significance of missiles, either anti-aircraft or surface-to-surface ones."

Analyzing the defenses on either side against attacks from the skies and the performance of the respective projectiles, it said that "it is important for Tehran to take the necessary measures to build up its own mobile short, medium and longrange surface-to-surface as well as surface-to-air missiles."

The daily urged the Iranian military planners to learn "this big lesson from the Persian Gulf war and urgently work on new missile projects in order to boost the defense capabilities of the country and minimize possible enemy air and missile strikes against Iran's vital economic centers, as well as military forces.

## Commentary Analyzes Balance of Power in Gulf

*NC1403175791 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 4 Mar 91 p 10*

[F. Asef commentary: "Convergence of American, Soviet, European Views on the Persian Gulf War"]

[Excerpts] Has the Persian Gulf war changed the conceptual infrastructure of a new international system of world powers? In order to answer this question, one must pay adequate attention to the role of the United States, the Soviet Union, and Europe:

—The Soviet Union—in order to succeed in eliminating its structural obstacles with Europe, as regards a joint Europe—Moscow is keeping an eye on the mid-term and long-term benefits. It concurs in the short term with the United States on trends of disarmament and elimination of tension in strategic regions. [passage omitted]

—The United States is seeking undisputed domination over the world, and after the elimination of its eastern rival from the scene, it is confronting one balance accompanied by two axes of contradictions. [passage omitted]

—In view of the present trend of complete solidarity, the industrial continent of Europe hopes to attain industrial superiority in two five-year plans. This trend may be slow despite the presence of the traditional U.S. ally in Europe, namely Britain. [passage omitted]

In the final analysis, no change in the objectives and the infrastructure of the trend for a new system can be perceived. In the Persian Gulf war, it was confirmed, however, that the savage nature of the powers of world arrogance—spearheaded by the United States—do not believe in any mercy for the tyrannized people in order to attain its avaricious goals, and all the bureaucratic apparatu the length and the width of the United States does not have any other function except to strive for the domination of the powers of the North over the South.

## Velayati Returns From Oman, Comments on Visit

*NC1803051391 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 18 Mar 91*

[Text] Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati returned from Oman this morning. In an interview with our correspondent he spoke about the outcome of his visit.

Describing this visit as positive, he said that since Oman heads the committee assigned by the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council to review measures for the security of the region, he reviewed Persian Gulf security and the regional countries' ties in his talks with Omani officials.

Pointing to his meeting with the Saudi foreign minister in Muscat, Mr. Velayati said that Saudi Foreign Minister Mr. Sa'ud al- Faysal traveled to Muscat to meet with the Iranian delegation. During the three-hour visit, the pilgrimage and other bilateral issues were discussed. It was decided that 48 hours after this visit, a joint communique would be issued by Iran and Saudi Arabia simultaneously in Tehran and Riyadh.

## Kuwaiti Envoy Denies Plans To Give Up Islands

*LD1703175891 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] The ambassador of Kuwait in Tehran met and conferred with our Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati today. In the course of this meeting, the ambassador, while once again expressing gratitude for the stance and constructive efforts of our country during the occupation of Kuwait, presented a report on the internal situation and the post-occupation difficulties that his country is currently facing.

Mr. Besharati, while offering congratulations to the Muslim people of Kuwait on the liberation of their country, stressed the importance of safeguarding Kuwait's independence and territorial integrity. He declared: The Islamic republic of Iran is prepared to supply any medical and food assistance that Kuwait might require.

Mr. Besharati added: As we have declared many times before, the Islamic Republic of Iran could not bear to see the Kuwaiti islands placed at the disposal of foreign states to be used for military purposes. The Kuwaiti ambassador denied that such a decision has been made by the Government of Kuwait. He said: These issues were reported by the Western mass media and are not true.

## Besharati Meets Kuwaiti, Pakistani Envoys

*LD1803083691 Tehran IRNA in English 0801 GMT 18 Mar 91*

[Text] Tehran, March 18 IRNA—First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati here Sunday told the Kuwaiti ambassador to Tehran that Iran was ready to supply Kuwait with the needed medicine and foodstuff.

Besharati further told Fawzi 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Jasim in a meeting that putting the Kuwaiti islands at the disposal of foreigners for military use is not tolerable by Iran.

The Kuwaiti diplomat described such reports by Western media as totally false and said his government had not made such a decision.

Besharati also emphasized the need for protecting Kuwait's independence and territorial integrity.

Al-Jasim hailed Iran's stand and its constructive efforts during seven-month Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

In another meeting the same day with Pakistani ambassador here Shemshad Ahmad, Khan Besharati thanked the Islamabad government for following up investigations on assassination of martyr Ardeshir Sadeq Ganji, head of Iran's cultural center in Lahore and bringing them to justice.

Turning to the situation in Iraq Besharati called for protecting territorial integrity of Iraq and non-interference of other countries in its domestic affairs.

Both sides stressed that maintaining security of the region is the task of the regional countries. The Pakistani diplomat emphasized the key role of Iran in security of the region.

## Turkey Eyes Leading Role in Mideast Security

*NC1403171191 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 25 Feb 91 p 8*

[Unattributed commentary: "Ankara and Its Dream of Leadership of the Middle East"]

[Excerpts] In the past few days, against the backdrop of the end of a devastating war in the Persian Gulf and the West's efforts to formulate a regional security pact for a new international system that will safeguard its long-term interests, the government of Turgut Ozal has adopted an "eyes on Asia" policy and has not only announced a desire for active participation in the new pact, but one cabinet minister has even claimed Turkish leadership over all Islamic countries of the region—Arab and non-Arab. [passage omitted]

The reason for these actions on the part of Ankara can be found in the following factors:

—Opposition on the part of the EC to Turkey's membership in the European Common Market and Ankara's exclusion from a united Europe of 1992.

—The possibilities for exporting Turkey's assembled products to the Middle East, as Turkish products are basically inferior in quality [to those of the West], and with their high prices, they cannot find a market as they cannot compete with the industrial products of the progressive European countries.

—The possibility of gaining the leadership of a future regional pact because of military superiority and large population, or participation in the leadership triangle of Damascus-Cairo-Ankara that, on the basis of the division of labor, will assume the responsibility for Middle East security and act as "holy reactionaries."

Based on the above reasons, Turkey sees the balance tilted in favor of the United States, something that cannot be denied in view of the U.S. role in the war with Iraq. [passage omitted]

It is the task of our foreign policy officials—in light of the policies of Ankara, which has consistently been playing the role of indirect tool in the hands of U.S. imperialism in the region—to prevent the fulfillment of Turkey's dreams. The security of the Persian Gulf is the responsibility of the regional countries, and no country has the right to interfere, even in the name of its geographical location in the Middle East.

Thus, in its capacity as a strong country that has a strategic position, superior military strength, and larger population in the Persian Gulf region, and as a country that has proved its sincerity in defending the interests of the people of the region, Iran can be considered the strong foundation of a regional security pact.

## Editorial Views Contemporary Issues Facing Islam

*NC1703053591 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 5 Mar 91 pp 1, 13*

[Editorial: "The Future of the World of Islam and the Need for Vigilance on the Part of the Islamic Trends"]

[Text] In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

The military phase of the oil war has come to an end, and moves that were not possible to achieve through the war or which can be better attained in the diplomatic sphere are on the rise. Naturally, the sensitivity and complexity of the issues at stake have been concomitantly heightened.

The enemies of Islam, who donned the garb of saviors who are saving the Arab region from Saddam, have entered the arena and are striving to assert their presence in every way possible at the center of gravity of decision-making regarding the regional security system. This is the first and most important danger that threatens the world of Islam.

The level of vulnerability shown by the regional countries in this war points up a greater danger—that the elements which actually brought about the war and those who armed the Baghdad regime for their own objectives and bestowed such a capability on it should now consolidate their positions as members of the regional security system to overpower this vulnerability.

The roots of nearly all the past and present problems lie with the foreigners, and these problems should not be perpetuated by allowing them to participate. Arrogant powers believe that they can maintain a strong foothold in the region, and are seeking to attain this objective by incorporating their role in the "regional security system" and thus legitimize their despotic presence in the region. Today, there are four main issues present in this sensitive area of the world of Islam, which are:

1. The future security system of the region.
2. Western interests in the Persian Gulf.
3. Western interests in the regional countries.
4. The Palestinian problem.

It cannot be said which one of the above four issues has greater priority and which poses the real threat to the world of Islam. This is because these issues are intertwined with so much subtlety and complexity that they have many factors in common.

The trends of thought and the political trends in Islamic countries should comprehend these subtleties, complexities, and sensitivities of the present and future issues in an intensive manner. The oil war and the regrettable reactions which certain schools of thought and political trends in the world of Islam have displayed in this regard have inspired deep apprehension. If they were not able to analyze and assess a simple and overt phenomenon as the oil war and to adopt a correct stance in this regard, the prospects of their erring again in the future events which will naturally emerge in an even more complex form is quite predictable even now, and therefore a source of immense perturbation.

In better words, if they were unable to resolve a simple equation of an unknown quantity in a correct manner, will they be able to correctly resolve the equations of many unknown quantities, which are far more complicated, under the same circumstances?

Most of the schools of thought and political trends in Iran and all the countries of the world of Islam, including Algeria and Jordan, have to a certain extent been influenced by the propagandistic atmosphere and unfortunately have not been able to form a correct assessment, even though the nature of the Baghdad regime, the nature of the war, and the conditions prevalent in the region, as well as those circumstances which emerged as a result of the war, were to a certain extent quite clear and foreseeable.

Those schools of thought and political trends which specifically believe in Islam naturally have good intentions. They wish to serve Islam, to feel for the Muslims and for the destiny of the world of Islam. However, when assessments are made on the basis of sentiments, inchoate and superficial information, and the lack of a correct understanding of the depth of the issues at stake, a comprehensive, effective, and satisfactory analysis cannot be achieved on principle.

The veracity and good intentions of most of the political groups and schools of thought which are active in the world of Islam today and have entered the arena with a sense of responsibility, can hardly be discounted. The main issue is that they should be able to avail themselves of the valuable experiences of the powerful political trends and schools of thought that were the vanguards of this great movement in the world of Islam and are the "pioneers of the world Islamic movement."

Even if some ostensibly negative and antagonistic remarks are heard from some pockets and corners, there is no doubt that these are not "contentious but protesting," and their protest stems from faulty and distorted information on which their assessments have been based.

The heightening sensitivity and complexity of the issues in the present and the future for the world of Islam and the joint destiny of the Muslim nations demands that they make a concerted effort to resolve the great problem, whose signs and effects emerged more clearly in the "oil war," and to endeavor to eliminate the problem and muster all their abilities for the purpose. The following issues are worth pondering in this regard:

1. Today, the clear definition of issues and the elaboration of the opinions of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the harbinger of the world Islamic movement, are being considered an "objective necessity." The events in the oil war and the stances—some erroneous—of most of the schools of thought and political groups in Iran and in the

Islamic world, despite their good intentions, proved that the knowledgeable intelligentsia and Islamic Iran should make greater efforts to enunciate their logical and sensible stances and opinions. It is now not enough to merely declare one's opinions. These should be explained in minute detail.

2. The healthy trends of thought in the Islamic world should take a serious view of the present losses and should endeavor to pool their information, experiences, and ideas from all over the world of Islam and gain access to more reliable sources of information and news, just in case the deceptive policy of a regime, the true nature of which has been exposed, would lure them again into taking the wrong stance or making incorrect decisions.

3. The valuable experiences gleaned by the world of Islam in the past few decades, especially since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, have been attained after payment of an exorbitant price. In general, this wealth of valuable information should be placed at the disposal of the Muslim nations, and they should consider this rare treasure trove of experiences as their own and should display greater enthusiasm and desire to avail themselves of it.

The experiences of the imposed war—in which there is no room for even the slightest doubt regarding the identification of the true friends and foes of the Islamic nations—is one of the most important of such cases. By pondering this, the Muslim nations can repay the enemies of Islam for their deceit and treachery.

The oil war is in fact one of the results and side effects of the imposed war and a sort of extension of it. The stances of most of the schools of thought in Algeria and Jordan have proved that they have not been able to gain access to correct and reliable information in "discerning the truth", and in one statement, it can be said that "neither have they recognized the Islamic Revolution nor the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran" with the result that the experiences of the Islamic Revolution have remained cloaked in ambiguity in the world of Islam and among the nations.

Vigilance, an exchange of views and information, and a retrospective review of past issues are the real "working tools" in presenting a correct assessment of the healthy political trends and schools of thought in the world of Islam. Without these tools, every analysis and assessment, regardless of how sincere or sympathetic it may be, will naturally be erroneous and wrong since it will have no roots and will not be based on firm principles. This will not benefit the world of Islam, nor the nations in the region. On the contrary it will cause irrevocable harm to the Islamic ummah.

## Interior Ministry Communique on Election Results

*NC1603084591 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] The Interior Ministry issued a communique announcing the results of the third round of midterm elections to the Majles for Esfahan, where polling took place yesterday. Out of a total of 77,187 votes, Mr. Ahmad Salek Kashani received a majority of 36,385 votes.

Similarly, the second round of midterm elections to the Council of Experts took place yesterday in the constituencies of Gilan, Sistan va Baluchestan, and Bushehr. The vote count has been completed in the Bushehr constituency and Mr. 'Abdolnabi Namazi received the majority of 77,368 votes, out of a total of 128,415 votes cast.

The vote count for the two constituencies of Gilan and Sistan va Baluchestan is in progress, the results of which will be announced later.

## Mohtashemi's Magazine Suspends Publication

*NC1803111191 Paris AFP in English 1051 GMT 18 Mar 91*

[Text] Tehran, March 18 (AFP)—A monthly magazine edited by 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, leader of Moslem anti-Western hardliners in Iran, has suspended publication, informed sources said here Monday.

The "temporary" suspension of the magazine BAYAN was decided for "technical reasons," they said. It follows "a complaint by the owner and a legal decision calling for the offices to be quickly vacated."

The sources did not elaborate. But Mr. Mohtashemi was quoted as saying here Monday that BAYAN was "under pressure from capitalists and religious conservatives."

## Soviet Forces Reportedly Stationed in Iran

*TA1803083191 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] We have learned from reliable sources that in its contacts with Soviet authorities during the past two months, the Islamic Republic regime has permitted these authorities to station a Soviet military unit on Iranian territory, so that the Western forces deployed in the Persian Gulf will be forced to leave this region. It is being said in Tehran that by this move, the Islamic Republic regime wants to scare the West and resurrect the buried 1921 treaty.

In recent months, the Islamic Republic regime has accelerated a policy of rapprochement with the Soviet Union. In addition to signing an agreement with the Soviet Union on the exploitation of oil from northern Iran and the purchase of some Soviet fighter planes, the regime is constructing a strategic road between the Soviet Union and the port of Chah Bahar in southeastern Iran, and is also building a large number of prefabricated houses in the Chah Bahar military base. Moreover, hundreds of Soviet experts are employed in various fields in the Islamic Republic.

## Pakistan

### U.S.-Supplied Nuclear Research Reactor Modified

*BK1703123891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1230 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] Islamabad, March 17 (AFP)—Pakistan has modified a five megawatt nuclear research reactor to operate on low-level enriched uranium, officials here said Sunday.

The reactor, received from the United States in 1965, will use 20 per cent enriched uranium, instead of the 93 per cent enriched uranium previously used, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) officials said.

Describing the development as a significant technological achievement, PAEC officials said the modified reactor will be commissioned in September.

The United States stopped shipments of high-level enriched uranium, the officials said, after Pakistan failed to prove it was not conducting nuclear weapons research.

Pakistan will receive the low-level enriched fuel from China, they said.

### Sharif Pledges To Strengthen Armed Forces

*BK1603090291 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, has said that no nation can maintain its survival without self-reliance in all fields and it cannot stay on borrowed crutches. He was speaking at the 83d passing-out parade at Pakistan Military Academy in Kakul this morning. The prime minister said that keeping in the view the Gulf situation as well as the international scenario, Pakistan has learned a number of lessons. They will have now to concentrate more on research and technology because avoidance of this vital sector would mean an invitation to destruction. This is a challenge for the nation and the people will have to tighten their belts to (?encourage) this vital field. Mr. Nawaz Sharif said the Gulf war has given another lesson that no country can depend on others. The main strength of any country is its own strength.

The prime minister said that the defense of Pakistan must be strong and impregnable. He reminded the cadets that Pakistan was achieved after great sacrifices. He said the nation would not consider any sacrifice too great for the country's independence and sovereignty. He said that every effort would be made to make the armed forces stronger with the acquisition of all possible modern weapons. Earlier, the prime minister reviewed the parade and took the salute. Aurangzeb Company was adjudged the best company and was awarded Qaid-i-Azam banner. The sword of honor went to company's senior under officer Mustafa Bilal, the president's gold medal to company's senior under office Shahid, and the chief of the army staff trophy to the Third Pakistan Battalion.

### Army Chief Beg Denies Political Ambitions

*BK1803091491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0718 GMT 18 Mar 91*

[Text] Islamabad, March 18 (AFP)—Pakistan's Army Chief of Staff General Aslam Beg Monday tried to end rumours of his political ambitions by reaffirming his intention to step down in August.

"No one should doubt my intention to retire on the due date," the general was quoted as saying Monday by several newspapers.

Reacting to reports that the United States is worried about his plans, the army chief said the United States always opposes "those who understand its true intentions."

Justifying his anti-U.S. stance during the Gulf war against Iraq, Gen. Beg said, "I was warning against a conspiracy to destroy the economic, military and political strength of a Moslem nation. I was trying to tell (Pakistan) what may happen in the future."

Gen. Beg has been an outspoken proponent of Pakistan's nuclear lobby in recent months and has opposed U.S. conditions for the renewal of economic and military aid to the country.

Washington suspended some 600 million dollars in annual aid to Pakistan October 1 after President George Bush failed to certify to Congress that Islamabad's nuclear program was solely for peaceful purposes.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif denied rumours of an imminent change at the top of the government in a television interview Sunday. He alleged that "conspiracies are being hatched against the democratic system" with the aid of politicians whom he did not name.

### Ministers Announce 12 Percent Oil Price Reduction

*BK1703163791 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] Addressing a joint press conference in Islamabad tonight, the federal finance minister, Mr. Sartaz Aziz, and the petroleum minister, Chaudhury Nisar Ali Khan, announced the government's decision of an average reduction of 12 percent in oil prices with immediate effect. The new prices of HOBC [expansion unknown] will be 13.2 rupees per liter, motor gasoline 10.85 rupees, HSD [high-speed diesel] 5.05 rupees, LDO [light diesel oil] 4 rupees, JP-1 domestic 5.80 rupees, JP-4 6.50 rupees, [word indistinct]-based oil 14.3 rupees per liter. Furnace oil would be 2,350 rupees per ton, and asphalt, rupees 4,770 per ton.

The government has, however, decided to keep the price of kerosene oil at the present level to check its adulteration with other petroleum products.

Answering a question, the minister said revision of oil prices downward would benefit agriculture and industry by lowering input expenditure.